

Sluggish industry attacked by Howe

By Sarah Hogg, Economics Editor. An "agenda of action" for European industry...

Botha offers to lift emergency 'in near future'

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

In an address to a specially convened joint session of the white, Indian and Coloured chambers of the South African Parliament...



A 1943 photograph which the World Jewish Congress alleges shows Dr Waldheim (second left) at an airstrip in Yugoslavia with an Italian commander and two German officers.

Ex-UN chief accused by Jews

By Our Foreign Staff. The World Jewish Congress yesterday accused the former United Nations Secretary-General, Dr Kurt Waldheim...

Unionist leaders seek initiative with dialogue call

By Richard Ford and Philip Webster

The leaders of Northern Ireland's two Unionist parties yesterday attempted to regain the political initiative...

Shires get cash to keep rate rises down

By Colin Hughes

Householders in shire counties yesterday gave hope of a rate rise reduction from April 1...

Sogat cars seized by court

By Patricia Clough and Richard Dowden

A High Court judge yesterday ordered the seizure of 70 cars belonging to Sogat...

Takeover veto may cost jobs, say Ford

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

The spectre of widespread factory closures and job losses among the million-strong labour force in the British motor component industry...

Police action a blow to altering image

By Paul Vallely

The police in Northern Ireland yesterday came under concerted criticism for their lack of intervention in hundreds of cases of roadside intimidation throughout the Province during Monday's strike...

New rules on takeover bids

By Sarah Hogg

The Stock Exchange has issued new rules to curtail the use of "poison pill" tactics in takeover battles...

Arms setback

By Sarah Hogg

American and Russian arms control negotiators in Geneva ended their fourth round of talks on nuclear and space weapons with each blaming the other for lack of progress...

Forgery role

By Sarah Hogg

A former FBI agent and an international arms dealer claimed they were working on behalf of the United States government when arrested with nearly \$500,000 counterfeit dollars...

NatWest rise

By Sarah Hogg

Bank shares moved sharply ahead yesterday after National Westminster reported annual profits 20 per cent higher at £804 million...

Unita hint

By Sarah Hogg

Unita may bargain for the release of about 150 expatriate workers, including at least two Britons, who were seized by its guerrillas in northern Angola...

Coe's plan

By Sarah Hogg

The England v US athletics meeting on Saturday will mark Sebastian Coe's final major domestic event of the season until the Commonwealth Games...



Scholars rule against Getty masterpiece

The Getty Museum in California may have overpaid by several millions for one of its recent acquisitions (Geraldine Norman writes).

BMA red-faced over advice on Pill

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

The British Medical Association is expected today to urge the General Medical Council to reconsider its advice that doctors may tell parents about a request for contraception from a girl aged under 16...

Death of MP adds to Tory poll tests

By Sarah Hogg

The Government faces two more by-election tests after the death yesterday of Mr John Spence, Conservative MP for Ryedale, Yorkshire...

Every storey has a happy ending.

The only kind of project which interests Bovis Construction is the one that turns out well. Whether we're builders or management contractors, the story is always the same: superb quality of work; swift completion; unrivalled value for money.

Table with 2 columns: Name, News, Letters, Law Report, Parliament, Property, Sale, Science, TV & Radio, Weather.

Women in prison 'learning crime'

By Stephen Goodwin Political Staff
Women in Holloway jail, north London, are being left with too much spare time to learn the tricks of the criminal trade, because of cuts in the prison education service, MPs were told yesterday.

Heath calls for open debate to stop city alienation

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent
Mr Edward Heath said last night that the deep alienation of the inner cities could lead to social breakdown. "Why obey the rules if obedience offers one nothing?" he asked.



The athlete Shirley Strong on a machine which uses traction to treat back problems, at the Sports Medicine Action exhibition, now on at Kensington Exhibition Centre, London. With her are Mr Tony Coombs, from the equipment company, and Ade Mafe and his coach.

Town hall rebels escape surcharge

By Hugh Clayton
Threats of surcharge and banning from office are to be lifted from almost 300 Labour councillors who took part in last year's rates rebellion. That decision by auditors will stand even if penalties are imposed today on 81 of their colleagues from Lambeth and Liverpool, who led the revolt against rate-capping.

Police action blow to new image

Continued from page 1
Yesterday continued to deny that their lack of response was caused by anything more than the fact that the police were massively overstretched. But privately senior Government officials in Belfast were admitting that it was a tactical blunder.

The problem stems from the lack of officers to escort women. The crisis at Holloway, where about 300 women are detained, was explained by Mr Paul Cavadino, senior information officer of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (Nacro).

He also endorsed the idea of a ministry of employment and training, which would tackle the problems of training school leavers for real jobs, "one of our chief national failures", and urged concerted help for the long-term unemployed.

The teachers' dispute Schools face more action on duties

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent
Industrial action will continue in many schools even though the teachers' pay dispute is officially over. The biggest teachers' union, the National Union of Teachers, has not signed the deal prepared by the conciliation service, Acas.

Greenwich is thought to have proved itself against surcharge by acting throughout last year's rebellion on legal advice. Hackney may be protected by a court judgement on its conduct almost a year ago.

Last summer, as talks between the British and the Irish Governments on the Hillsborough Agreement neared completion, the RUC made dramatic new attempts to tackle the long standing problem of provocative Protestant marches through Catholic areas.

Mother's milk worries eased

By Our Environment Correspondent
Pesticide residues have been found in babies' body fat and in breast milk, Government scientists reported yesterday. They added that the already small amounts had dropped to levels too minute to be worrying.

Collection scheme to fight VAT gold fraud

By Stewart Tendler Crime Reporter
A special security certificate is to be issued by Customs officials to gold dealers such as Johnson Matthey Bankers as part of new measures announced yesterday to combat bullion fraud.

Newspaper revolution Maxwell demands job cuts

By Ronald Faux
Mr Robert Maxwell yesterday demanded 330 redundancies at his two Scottish newspapers the Daily Record and the Sunday Mail in Glasgow.

Quaker is vetoed as bishop

By Our Religious Affairs Correspondent
Canon Paul Oestreicher, the churchman recently nominated for a bishopric in Wellington, New Zealand, has been vetoed for the position on the apparent grounds that he is a Quaker.

Versatile radar gives warships a new look

By Bill Johnstone, Technology Correspondent
A revolutionary computer-controlled radar system able to detect and track any attacking enemy craft, almost immune to jamming, and which will substantially alter the shape of warships in the next decade, is being developed in Britain.

Winter chill takes toll of Big Ben's chimes

By Stephen Goodwin
The onset of warmer weather should return the chimes of Big Ben to their former familiar sound.

Today gets off to a shaky start

By Robin Young
Yesterday Today was postponed until tomorrow for many readers who were unable to buy a copy of Mr Eddy Shah's colour tabloid newspaper.

Additives ban

Sainsbury is to remove many additives from its products because of growing consumer concern.

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Today gets off to a shaky start
Yesterday Today was postponed until tomorrow for many readers who were unable to buy a copy of Mr Eddy Shah's colour tabloid newspaper.
Late printing, trouble with new technology, and weaknesses in distribution were blamed for the newspaper's non-arrival in areas of England and Wales. The paper is not yet distributed in Scotland.
A spokesman for Mr Shah's company, News UK, claimed that the 1.1 million copies printed had sold out by mid-morning.
It had been hoped in increase the print run to 1.5 million copies or more by bringing forward editorial deadlines, but in the event Mr Shah delayed production by more than an hour for a colour picture of the Queen arriving in Canberra, Australia.

Winter chill takes toll of Big Ben's chimes
By Stephen Goodwin
The onset of warmer weather should return the chimes of Big Ben to their former familiar sound.
Below zero temperatures had gradually muted the sound of Britain's best known timepiece so that MPs had begun to ask questions in the House.
Mr Robert Key, Conservative MP for Salisbury, wanted to know when the chimes would be restored to proper working order and called for a statement. Perhaps he should have consulted his elders in the Commons first.
If former Prime Minister Mr James Callaghan or his old Labour colleague Mr Ian Mikardo had stretched their memories they might have been able to tell Mr Key they had heard it all before, or rather that they hadn't.
For the Big Ben's chimes last froze up in the harsh winter of 1947, two years after Mr Callaghan and Mr Mikardo entered Parliament.
Sir George Young, Under Secretary for the Environment, explained in a detailed written reply to Mr Key that there was nothing technically wrong with the chimes.
"Examination has revealed that a rubber bush, which absorbs the strike of the hammer on the largest quarter bell, has gradually become frozen hard over the current extended period of severe weather and has lost its usual resilience. The effect of this is to curtail the sound of the last strike," Sir George said.
Bad weather played havoc with the great clock even before 1947. In 1904 a February snow storm stopped it for eight hours, and in 1928 the east face froze over stopping the minute hand.

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'Cloak and dagger fake cash deals of FBI agent and arms dealer'

A former FBI agent and an international arms dealer were caught with nearly \$500,000 in counterfeit United States money, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

William Herrmann, a US citizen, and David Bizzell, holder of an Irish passport and a South African resident, told detectives when they were arrested in May last year that they were working on behalf of the US Government.

Mr James Curtis, for the prosecution, said: "Their defences are more suited to a Len Deighton novel than everyday life."

"They contain such exotic concepts as the FBI, the CIA, the mafia, multi-million dollar counterfeit deals, illicit arms sales on a massive scale from the USA to Iran, the infiltration of criminal activities by undercover agents, alleged threats of violent retribution and more."

He said detectives saw Mr Bizzell hand over some of the counterfeit \$100 bills to Mr

Herrmann, "in a cloak-and-dagger fashion", in Gloucester Road, west London.

Mr Curtis said Mr Herrmann told the police that he was acting on instructions from the FBI in Washington to infiltrate a \$100 million counterfeit currency operation organized by the mafia in Italy.

Mr Bizzell had at first claimed that the police had planted the notes. Then he said he was working with Mr Herrmann only to ingratiate himself with the US authorities in the hope of a pending prosecution, arising out of an Iranian arms deal, being dropped.

Mr Curtis described their explanations as "a criminally sophisticated insurance policy". He said: "The clever thing about their defence is that each is based on a framework of background facts which can be shown to be true."

"Mr Herrmann has worked as an agent or informer for the

FBI and Mr Bizzell has been involved in an abortive secret US-Iranian heavy arms deal."

Mr Bizzell, aged 42, of Wetherby Gardens, Chelsea, west London, denies two charges of having counterfeit currency with intent, two of having counterfeit currency and one of delivering counterfeit currency.

Mr Herrmann, aged 50, who was staying at the Forum Hotel in Cromwell Road, west London, denies one charge of having counterfeit currency with intent and one of having it in his possession.

Mr Curtis said the Crown would call members of the FBI and other US authorities whom Mr Herrmann had named when he was arrested.

"Even if you are tempted to accept they were acting as good citizens, it is no defence for playing a serious, possibly deadly, game of cowboys and Indians on British soil in return for favours from the US Government", Mr Curtis said. The case continues today.

Royal guide to being classy but sexy



By Suzy Menkes, Fashion Editor

"My aim is to design a swimsuit that is sexy, but not vulgar," says Princess Stephanie of Monaco—a royal recruit to the fashion world.

The younger daughter of Prince Rainier and Princess Grace was in London yesterday to launch her collection of beachwear called, appropriately enough, Pool Position.

"I have made swimwear that can be worn all day—to the beach in the morning and then out to dinner in the evening," says Princess Stephanie, who wore one of her own ruffled and strapless swimsuits under a skimpy black skirt at her twenty-first birthday celebrations a month ago. The collection includes stretch velvet and latex separates.

Princess Stephanie started her fashion

career at Dior in Paris, where she worked in the couture studio with four other stylists, including Aline de la Combe, her partner in Pool Position. The colourful swimsuits, cut very high at the thigh and clinging to the curves, are now on sale at Harrods in London and around the world.

Princess Stephanie who had just flown in from a promotional trip around the United States, sees no contradiction between her provocative designs and her Royal status. Nor does she feel that her contemporary, the young Princess of Wales, should have to dress in a sedate regal style.

"That idea is quite out of date," she says. "I am a princess of the twentieth century. Of course I have to dress suitably for official engagements, but what I wear in private is my affair."

To launch her shapely beach look,

Princess Stephanie wore a discreet dove grey Chanel suit, with jaunty gilt buttons.

Her father, who vetoed his daughter's previous choice of career as an international fashion model, supports her new venture.

"He was very unsure about the swimsuits to start with, but now he is pleased that I am making a success of it," she says.

What is the dividing line between the sexy and the vulgar when there are just a few square centimetres of stretch fabric to play with?

"If I put a gold collar on a black swimsuit, that would make it vulgar immediately," she says. "It all comes down to the cut and shape. I learned a lot from my apprenticeship in haute couture."

Photograph: Suresh Karadia

Bodyguard offer to travellers abroad

By Derek Harris Industrial Editor

Thomas Cook, the travel agency, is offering a bodyguard service for businessmen involved in delicate deals abroad.

The company foresees an increasing demand for personal security, along with a need for safe hotels and meeting places in troubled countries.

Cook's would refer any businessman or firm needing a bodyguard or secure meeting place, where sensitive negotiations could take place, to British specialists who are able to make arrangements throughout the world.

Mr John McEwan, managing director of Thomas Cook, said: "Our 1,500 branches are in 143 countries, and they can keep us in touch over local developments that could be of concern to travellers."

"It is a fact of life that things are not getting any easier. But we are fully prepared to get a client into any country, or any situation."

He said costs would have to be agreed with the specialists, and added: "No prices can be quoted yet for this new service, if only because requirements could vary so much. But fairly obviously, bodyguards can hardly come cheap."

Cook's, the biggest British travel agency, already has a service advising clients on how to live and operate safely while abroad. For long postings, advice is available on how families remaining in Britain can be looked after.

At some Cook's offices a health screening service is offered allowing travellers to record medical details, such as blood group and history of illnesses, on microfilm, about the size of a credit card, which can be carried on journeys abroad.

Extra £5m to help drug addicts

By Richard Evans, Lobby Reporter

Health authorities in England are being given new instructions and an extra £5 million to help them to treat the rapidly increasing number of hard-drug addicts.

The Whitehall move comes after a highly critical report by the Commons Social Services Select Committee last summer, which said that treatment and rehabilitation services for the estimated 100,000 addicts were "woefully inadequate".

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, responded by promising an extra £5 million, and yesterday he released details of a circular on services for drug misusers, sent to health chiefs, which explains how the money will be distributed and what facilities should be provided.

Cash will be sent direct to regional health authorities, with each receiving a share in proportion to its population of those aged 15 to 34.

A national drug advisory service, made up of small specialist teams, will be set up to visit the areas worst affected and advise them.

While the precise pattern of services for treating addicts will be decided locally, Mr Fowler has set out detailed guidelines which he expects all health authorities to follow.

The circular says every region should provide at least one drug problem team, based at a drug dependency unit and made up of a consultant psychiatrist, junior medical staff, social workers and trained nurses who deal almost exclusively with drug addicts.

District health authorities are urged to provide a range of educational and counselling services for addicts as well as treatment facilities.

The circular says family doctors should be encouraged to play a large role in caring and treating addicts.

"An increasing proportion of misusers of drugs are women. Consideration should be given in the planning of services to the special needs of female 'drug misusers', and especially pregnant women or women with young children", the circular adds.

Protest to halt opium poppies

By Richard Evans Lobby Reporter

The head of a Commons inquiry into hard drugs is to protest to the Home Office over plans to grow 200 acres of opium poppies in Britain.

Sir Edward Gardner, Conservative chairman of the home affairs select committee, fears the poppy crop could end up in the hands of criminals who would convert it into heroin.

Mr John Gummer, Minister of State for Agriculture, confirmed in a parliamentary answer that there were plans for commercial trials with a view to producing oil.

Sir Edward, whose committee will publish its final report next week, said yesterday he intended to raise the issue with Mr David Mellor, Under-Secretary of State at the Home Office.

Sir Edward wants to know if the Home Office is aware of the plans, whether the security implications have been appreciated, and what steps are being taken to make sure the crop does not fall into the wrong hands.

Guitarist fails to halt group

Alan Lancaster, the bass guitarist with the rock group Status Quo, failed in the High Court yesterday to stop his two partners performing without him as Status Quo.

Mr Justice Knox said that if Mr Lancaster's partners, Francis Rossi and Rick Parfitt, were not allowed to release their latest record album, the group's most valuable asset, the name Status Quo, would lapse.

The judge rejected Mr Lancaster's application for an interim injunction preventing Mr Rossi and Mr Parfitt from performing or recording anywhere in the world as Status Quo without him.

Issues involving the partnership and what money is due to Mr Lancaster, who lives in Australia, will be tried at a later date. The judge said there was a "very high probability" that at the trial the dissolution of the group would be ordered.

The judge's provisional ruling will allow a West German television appearance by Mr Rossi and Mr Parfitt to go ahead.

Their last public appearance with Mr Lancaster was at the Live Aid concert at Wembley.

Wren woke up to find man by bed, court told

A Wren woke to find a rating kneeling beside her bed, a court martial in Plymouth was told yesterday.

The sailor had a cardigan pulled over his head, covering his face, and one of his hands was under the duvet.

Lincy Clayton, aged 20, said: "I was completely stunned and asked him what he was doing. He just grunted and told me to hang on a minute because he was out of breath."

She added that the sailor was obviously drunk. He had grunted replies to her questions while kneeling with his

head resting on the mattress. She was too frightened to scream or struggle and tried to talk to him.

Finally, the rating stood up and staggered out of the room. "I was still in a state of shock and pushed my bed against the door", the Wren said.

Seaman Robin Smith, aged 19, a Royal Navy cook, pleaded not guilty to drunkenness and indecent assault at the HMS Neptune base at Faslane, Scotland, early one morning last August.

The case continues today.

'Dial now, pay later' public telephone trial

A pay telephone system which does not use cash or plastic cards went on trial in Bristol and Bath yesterday.

The British Telecom AccountCall service is being tested in 700 push-button telephone boxes. If successful, it will be extended.

The caller keys in the figures 197, then a personal account number, a security code and the telephone number.

Calls are charged to home or business accounts with the main bill, giving the date, the number dialled and the cost. The normal pay telephone rate of 10p per unit is charged, plus 20p, making the service cheaper than reverse charge and credit card calls. Companies can get separate statements for individual account holders.

Father 'said dead girl was abroad'

A dental lecturer accused of murdering his adopted daughter told the police that the girl was abroad, Leeds Crown Court was told yesterday.

Samson Perera, aged 43, of Stijwell Drive, Sandal, Wakefield, said he had taken Nilanthe Perera, aged 13, to his brother in Sicily, the first stage of a journey to Sri Lanka, the court was told. He denies murdering the girl, and obstructing a coroner.

Detective Inspector Tom Hodgson told the court that when questioned about human bones found in his Leeds University laboratory, Mr Perera replied: "The bones you found in my laboratory were specimens I brought from Sri Lanka."

The trial was adjourned

Bridge sale

A 200-year-old toll bridge and cottage at Whitney, near Hay-on-Wye, Powys, which comes with a tax-free toll income of about £15,000, has been put up for sale at around £100,000.

Pubs lack taste, Ronay reports

By Alan Hamilton

Egon Ronay, the gourmet and arbiter of taste buds, yesterday named the Ashcroft Inn at Bridgewater, Somerset, as his Pub of the Year for what his guide describes as a "bewildering" selection of good food.

Mr Peter Milne, who owns the inn with his wife and son, received his winner's trophy at a lunch in a West End hotel, where he served his own version of lamb burgundy, one of the bar meals which so impressed the judges.

As landlord and owner of a free house, Mr Milne is exempt from the usual criticisms voiced by Mr Ronay in the introduction to the new edition of his public house guide, also published yesterday,

which concentrates on food and accommodation rather than drink.

Mr Ronay says that the general standard of pub food has improved in recent years, but public houses do not yet satisfactorily fill the gap between top-bracket restaurants and mass catering. They simply do not occupy the place of the French bistro.

One of the main reasons for the poor standards of food that still exist in many British pubs could be lack of taste and palate in the top management of most breweries, Mr Ronay says.

"This lack of taste filters down and manifests itself in general inferiority."

While acknowledging overall improvements away from

the pickled eggs and shrunken sausages of 20 years ago, Mr Ronay says the picture is still patchy.

"Bread is better. The desolate picture of chips is now relieved here and there—we have found notably good chips in Yorkshire. Tables are now generally available, so fewer people are forced to adopt the British-vertical-posture for eating. Vegetarian dishes can be found in most good pub bars."

But, Mr Ronay says, menus are still absurdly over-long, forcing the use of convenience foods.

Women's lavatories have greatly improved, but men's are still often primitive. Egon Ronay's Guinness Pub Guide (Automobile Association, £4.50).

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PARLIAMENT March 4 1986

Anglo-Irish accord

Hypothermia

Teachers' pay

Province reputation damaged by strike

ULSTER

The minister had referred to allegations that police officers had failed to intervene. When the Chief Constable had reported would Mr King report again to the House? Would an inquiry take place into the off-duty members of the UJR were at barriers? Would Mr King invite party leaders of Ulster to meet under his chairmanship and seek a consensus which would isolate the men of violence on both sides? Mr King said this was manifestly not a dignified and voluntary protest. It indicated considerable planning and the Chief Constable would want to investigate all aspects. Any evidence of indifferent policing should be brought to the attention of the Chief Constable and it would be investigated. He went on: I hope we can get discussions going. The Prime Minister put some sensible proposals to the leaders of the Unionist parties. These could have provided a way forward but were repudiated although we have not yet received any official indication to that effect. I will do what I can to seek ways in which discussions can now start. It is the only way. Violence will not succeed.



Griffiths Show more understanding for police

After paying tribute to the security forces and RUC, Mr King said there had been a number of allegations that the police did not take action when required. The Chief Constable was preparing a full report on policing. To indicate the scale of the workload the RUC faced, there were some 655 roadblocks in the province of which 441 were cleared. There were in addition some 80 cauldrons and demonstrations which caused considerable disruption in a number of towns. There were 57 arrests and the names of 184 people noted to proceed by way of summons. Sixty-five plastic baston rounds were fired; 47 policemen were injured. At night a number of petrol bombs were thrown; over 20 shots were fired in three firearms attacks on the police during disturbances in Loyalist areas. (Conservative shouts of "Disgraceful!") Mr Peter Archer, chief Opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland, said they shared the minister's abhorrence of violence and intimidation which further alienated the sympathy of people in Great Britain from the cause. It was apparently designed to promote. If the protest was arranged to demonstrate the strength of feeling in Northern Ireland against the agreement it failed as an indication since they did not know how many people participated voluntarily and how many were responding to intimidation. If it transpired that the violence and roadblocks were planned, would proceedings be initiated against those responsible?

and Wolff and Short? Why were they staying away from work on Monday? Mr King said it was the Government's strong hope and desire that Northern Ireland should remain part of the United Kingdom. One of the most offensive things about the protest was the implication that somehow they were seeking to undermine the position of Northern Ireland. The purpose of the Anglo-Irish agreement was to reassure Unionists about the validity of the position of the majority and to get the agreement of the Republic firm in international law that there could be no change in that position without majority consent. Even in the face of that, there were those who refused to accept it although it was article one of the agreement. Mr King said he was not sure Mr Powell's views were shared by his parliamentary colleagues. The Government was anxious to see a basis of administration in Northern Ireland which was widely acceptable to both communities. The Anglo-Irish agreement was designed to encourage that. Sir Eldon Griffiths (Bury St Edmunds, C) said it was one thing to make splendid statements about not yielding to intimidation. But at the end of the day, it depended upon the courage and resolution of the security forces, particularly the RUC. Would Mr King show just a little more understanding of the human position of police officers who were shot in the back by the violent minority and who no longer had the consent of the majority yet were gaged by their chief constable and did not get from his office the support to which they were entitled to in the grave circumstances the country now faced? Mr King said he deeply resented the last sentence of Sir Eldon's remarks. The RUC was aware that he (Mr King) had the greatest admiration for them as a professional police force. I am well aware (he said) of the concern Sir Eldon has about the particular matter of consultation and the rights of the Police Federation in Northern Ireland. That is under discussion. Mr Mervyn Rees (Leeds South and Morley, Lab) a former Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said Monday's day of protest, and in some cases near insurrection, together with the plans projected for the weeks and months ahead to culminate in July, could only seriously weaken the link between Northern Ireland and Britain. (Cheers.) It was on good ignoring the situation. The Government should now talk with the Government to Dublin as to what would happen if the link really was to be stretched to breaking point. Mr King said it was precisely because of the British Government's concern that Mrs



King Disgraced incidents show throughout world

Thatcher and her met Unionist leaders last Tuesday. The Unionists had attended expecting a door to be slammed to their face when they came out they said the door had been broken. It was clear that a door had been opened. The tragedy was that when they got back to Belfast, somebody else decided to slam the door to their face. Mr John Hume (Foyle, SDLP): Although the Anglo-Irish agreement has now been in place for three months, it has not done a single bit of harm to a single citizen in Northern Ireland and the only damage done has been self-inflicted such as the damage done yesterday to wide sections of the community. Mr King: So far from not suffering any damage or harm, there are already signs of the benefits that can come from this agreement. I think any independent Unionist must take comfort from the switch of votes away from the party supporting violence to the constitutional nationalist party. Mr Ivor Stanbrook (Orpington, C): If we go on like this, with the majority feeling themselves threatened and some taking desperate measures and Mr King condemning them in the strongest terms as he has, we are going to get into a situation where even the minority feels threatened and the situation will get far worse than now. Does that not point to the fact that what was done in the name of the agreement was a blunder of the first magnitude? Mr King: I pay tribute to the number of people who, often with considerable inconvenience and courage, made sure they were not going to be intimidated. The vast majority in so many areas got to work in spite of the difficulties. Mr Ian Gow (Eastbourne, C), who resigned as a Government minister over the Anglo-Irish agreement, asked: If he should receive a request from the Government of the Irish Republic that the inter-governmental conference should not meet, say for the next three months, would he consider such a suggestion very carefully? Mr King: We have entered into an agreement in good faith which we believe will bring benefits to all the people of Northern Ireland. If he is saying for example, that we should suspend discussions on improving cross-border security and the many steps taken at the moment to make a more effective counter-attack against terrorism, I think that would be a very difficult proposition to make, but I note his comments.

Row over help with heating for the elderly

SOCIAL SERVICES

During a heated and protracted row between the Prime Minister and Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, over heating allowances for old people during the recent cold wave, Mrs Thatcher defended the Government's record and said that, in fact, what Mr Kinnock did not like was the extent of the help available. The money was spent by Mr Martin Flannery (Sheffield, Hillsborough, Lab) who said it was a matter of the deepest concern that many old people had died and were still dying of hypothermia during the winter. How can the Government and the Prime Minister stand idly by (he asked) and watch these poor people in cold, unheated rooms waiting for approaching death? Are the rich and wealthy members of this Government going to blame everybody else but themselves when everyone in the country knows exactly who is to blame for their deaths? Mrs Thatcher: Spending on help with heating has increased dramatically since 1978. There has been £30 million. Now it is £40 million, an increase of £10 million. The number of people eligible for heating allowances has increased greatly and 90 per cent of supplementary pensioners get heating allowances as compared to 70 per cent in 1978-79. In addition to the £20 million extra aid in the form of severe weather payments are available in almost all of the 500 DHSS area offices. Mr Kinnock asked Mrs Thatcher to join him and other MPs in applauding the initiative of Age Concern in providing a thousand survival kits to old people they considered to be most at risk from the cold. But the Government must issue urgent heating allowances. Will the Prime Minister (he asked) the system of helping with heating costs so that we never again experience a winter in which the poor freeze to death for want of help with heating bills? Mrs Thatcher said help had greatly exceeded anything given by the Labour Government. The Secretary of State for Social Services (Mr Norman Fowler) had arranged for massive advertising in the national press on the availability of extra help with fuel bills. This was being supplemented by great local effort.

Joseph condemns NUT behaviour as indefensible

EDUCATION

The behaviour of the NUT was condemned as appalling and indefensible by Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education, during question time in the Commons. His comments came in reply to a question by Mr Mark Carlisle (Warrington South, C) who has asked: Does he agree that the behaviour of the leadership of the NUT has shown yet again they are prepared to do damage to children's education and harm to teachers as a body? Is not the time coming to remind individual teachers who are concerned about their individual professional standards and who are anxious to obtain higher salaries, that they can join other unions instead? Sir Keith Joseph: I agree that the behaviour of the NUT seems to me to be appalling. They are evidently willing to take the money that has been negotiated by the other unions and employers and yet to continue to disrupt education. They are standing in the way of reform to education which is needed and I regard that as a totally indefensible position by the NUT. The exchanges were opened by Mr Sean Hughes (Knowsley South, Lab) who asked: What assessment does the Secretary of State make of the level of public pressure for greater spending on education? Sir Keith Joseph: I have no doubt that there is considerable public pressure for higher standards in education and for the best possible return on the resources invested in the education service. The Government will continue to work towards these aims. Mr Michael Latham (Rusland and Melton, C): Capital spending is important to parents. Would it help him in dealing with this pressure if he was prepared to make it available to local education authorities to spend in their own areas? Sir Keith Joseph: Yes, that would make the Government that much more popular if it were possible. When that policy was adopted two or three years ago the local education authorities altogether spent £100 million more than they had warned they would spend and that affected the national economy. Mr Giles Radice, chief Opposition spokesman on education: More should be spent on education equipment and more effective ways of raising the level of standards in schools, so why is it that the Prime Minister seems only concerned with educational red herrings like vouchers and privatization which does nothing to help the vast majority of the population? When will the Government acknowledge that our children should have a right to good quality education? Sir Keith Joseph: He seems only to have read half the annual report of HMI. The HMI says that there has been spending on books by many education authorities but they could do with better management by many authorities.

Falklands fleet still possible

SHIPPING

Britain could launch another Falklands campaign, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said in the Commons. She was replying to Sir Edward de Cauna (Taunton, C) who had asked her to look at the appalling decline in the merchant fleet. Sir Edward de Cauna, accompanied by Labour cheerleaders, said: In no sense of the House are we desperately concerned about the matter and its implications for defence and economic policy. We could not mount another Falklands operation because we do not have the ships and more than 80 per cent of British trade is carried in ships with foreign flags. He asked her to instruct senior colleagues to do the things necessary to change the situation. Mrs Thatcher: I disagree that we cannot mount another Falklands operation. We could. The merchant marine and war requirements are the subject of continuous review. The merchant fleet remains capable of meeting all the needs of the armed forces. The important thing for the merchant marine is that British shipping can compete with the fleets of other nations on costs.

Sniffing kits to be outlawed

DRUG ABUSE

The Government is to take action on the new Drug Trafficking Offences Bill to outlaw the sale of cocaine sniffing kits, it was announced to the House of Lords. Lord Glenarthur, Under Secretary of State, Home Office, said, when he moved the second reading of the Bill, which contains new powers to control the proceeds of drug trafficking, that reports had come to light within the last few weeks about the sale to London and elsewhere of cocaine sniffing kits. It appeared that there was no means of preventing the sale of such kits under the present law. The Government was proposing to bring forward as the committee stage of the Bill provisions creating a new specific offence of supplying or offering to supply a combination of articles which, taken together, the seller believed were likely to be used in the administration of a controlled drug, other than for bona fide medical purposes. He added: The open sale of kits which are designed to facilitate illicit drug taking are an intolerable affront to which we must respond immediately and decisively. (Cheers.) The scourge of drugs, inflicting incalculable misery and a tragic waste of young lives, was one of the most serious problems facing society. The powers of confiscation of the proceeds of drug trafficking which the Bill introduced was another weapon in the Government's armoury and I have nothing further to add on the question of review.

Orange badges

Brain-washing in schools condemned

Brain-washing in the classroom could have no possible place in a free society, Mr Christopher Patten, Minister of State for Education and Science, declared during Commons question time. Mr Robert Banks (Harrowgate, C) had asked him to agree that it was a cardinal principle for teachers to maintain impartiality when teaching political matters. Heads and teachers who expressed strong political allegiances drove a wedge between the vital relationships of teacher and pupil and teacher and parent, he said. Mr Robert Maclellan (Cathness and Sutherland, SDP) asked what steps were being taken to assist the police to do their proper job of giving crime prevention advice to schools but who were being prevented from doing so in some left-wing, Labour-dominated boroughs. Mr Patten said an admirable and very useful document on the subject was being produced by the Society of Education Officers and Chief Police Officers and would be endorsed by the department and by the Home Office. He hoped this document would get wide circulation. Mr Harry Greenway (Ealing North, C), the other deputy headmaster, recalled a colleague who insisted on demonstrating his love of communism by displaying posters of Chairman Mao and the hammer and sickle and his teaching had to be watched but he was the exception rather than the rule. Most people were not given to political bias in the classroom. Mr Patten replied: I totally accept what he has said. I think the antics of a few discredit the hard work and conscientiousness of the overwhelming majority of teachers. I have better news than that my moral tutor at Oxford was a former member of the Communist Party.



Flannery: Teachers embittered and angry

Mr Hughes: In view of the Minister of State's recent comment that one of the reasons for a lack of increase in public expenditure in education is a lack of public pressure, will the Secretary of State now tell us the truth: Was the money there when he told us there were insufficient funds to pay teachers what they wanted, or if the funds were not there, what is the point of what the Minister of State said? Sir Keith Joseph: The Government takes the view that it is shared by the majority of people in this country that the teachers deserve more pay for effective teaching, but that teachers also

More students despite fall in grants

RELATIVES GIBE RESENTED

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said during question time in the Commons that she resented the implication made by a Labour MP who asked whether any member of the Cabinet had a relative working for General Motors, which wants to buy British Leyland. Mr Terence Davis (Birmingham, Hodge Hill, Lab) had asked: In view of the General Motors takeover and the rumours to Birmingham will she say whether any member of the Cabinet has a relative working for General Motors or one of its subsidiaries? Mrs Thatcher: I resent the implication of his question. The bids are in today. They will be considered with one thing in mind: what will give the best prospect for jobs. Sale of Vickers Mr Peter Morrison, Minister of State for Industry, said in a Commons written reply that he would ensure Vickers Shipbuilding and Engineering Ltd remained in UK ownership following its sale by British Shipbuilders. Any necessary arrangements (he said) will be in place before the business is sold.

Tory MP suggests end of student unions

Many felt it was totally devoid of their political views. Mr. Skinner's idea of thought. The Government was not against unions in any circumstances. They sympathized with views on the whole question of automatic membership of unions. Mr Walden said he found it difficult to follow Mr Skinner's line of thought. The Government was not against unions in any circumstances. They sympathized with views on the whole question of automatic membership of unions. Mr Walden said he found it difficult to follow Mr Skinner's line of thought. The Government was not against unions in any circumstances. They sympathized with views on the whole question of automatic membership of unions.

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Private investment 'a vital key to solving council housing crisis'

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

Better housing management and an injection of private investment are the essential keys needed to tackle a crisis in council housing, the Audit Commission, the local authorities watchdog on economy and efficiency, concludes in a report published today.

homes has fallen by 4 per cent. Criticizing "too much administrative bureaucracy," the commission concludes: "If all authorities were able to operate as economically and efficiently as the best quarter in similar authorities, central staffing levels could be reduced by as much as 8,000."

It argues that authorities should prepare to charge more realistic rents for better services, complaining that some authorities take a "minimalist" approach—minimum rent for minimum services.

Television slot for filibuster Tory MP

By David Hewson and George Hill

The Government faces a by-election in the middling safe seat of Derbyshire West with the appointment of Mr. Matthew Parris, the MP, as presenter of the television programme Weekend World.



Matthew Parris, who is to present Weekend World

Westland staff being lured to Continent

By Tim Jones

Workers at Westland have been urged not to respond to local newspaper advertisements which offer "excellent" salaries to scientists and technicians prepared to work in central Europe on new helicopter designs.

25 foreign diplomats ordered to leave

By Nicholas Ashford, Diplomatic Correspondent

The number of foreign diplomats ordered out of Britain after committing criminal offences doubled last year, according to Foreign Office figures released yesterday.

Move to bar 'peace convoy'

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

A 100-vehicle mobile hippie commune, known as the "peace convoy," could be banned from camping on private land under a proposal for inclusion in the Public Order Bill.

Conditions on public assemblies if he reasonably believes that serious public disorder, serious damage to property or serious disruption to the life of the community may result from the assembly, or that its organizers' purpose is the intimidation and coercion of others.

arrival on the Cannock Chase site at Seven Springs, the county council petitioned the High Court for a repositioning order, but it was only after spare motor parts and fuel had been handed over, at ratepayers' expense, that the convoy finally left on July 25.

Doctor's affair led to attack

A family doctor's affair with one of his patients led to an attack on him by her husband, the General Medical Council's professional conduct committee was told yesterday.

Dr. Anthony Collington, aged 54, of Kiveton Park, Sheffield, was found guilty of serious professional misconduct and his registration was ordered to be suspended for 12 months. He has 28 days to appeal.

The affair began, the committee was told, last April when the patient, identified as Mrs. X, was suffering depression and having marital difficulties.

Shipyard action plea by unions

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

Two maritime unions yesterday backed shipowners in urging the Government to halt the "alarming" decline in Britain's merchant fleet.

In 10 years, Britain has sunk from third to ninth place among world fleets, and the number of ships has dropped from 1,818 to 727, the National Union of Marine, Aviation and Shipping Transport Officers and the Engineers' and Managers' Association said in a Budget submission to the Chancellor, Mr. Nigel Lawson.

Their call was supported by the General Council of British Shipping which said: "We want the Treasury to give a more favourable climate comparable to that in rival shipping states."

Pot-pourri of facts on birds and biscuits

Those concerned about the health of Britain's bees, the number of biscuits eaten each year, and the going rate for children's pocket-money, should consult the latest edition of the Guide to Official Statistics.

The Government Statistical Service's fifth edition of the guide can direct researchers along the right path to almost any topic.

Statistical Office, the guide aims to provide a valuable research tool for librarians, businessmen, journalists, students and other fact-finders. Its 16 chapters list updated reference sources for thousands of statistics, as well as the hard-to-find facts and figures.

STILL TAX-FREE "£130,000 COULD GIVE THEM A NEW START."

£1 today could mean up to £130,000 when your family needs it most.

Protect your family now - because you may never find a better chance than this.

You may already be insured, but if you haven't looked at your insurance in the last few years you may find your family under-protected. You may even have insurance that's about to run out.

You may have protected your family against the money worries that could be caused by your own death. But what would happen if your 'loved one' died - would you be protected?

Whatever your needs, you'll find this high value - low cost plan ideal.

It gives you "term insurance", long recognized as giving more pure protection for your money than any other kind. That's because the money you pay into your plan is used to provide maximum protection for your family in the event of your untimely death.

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And, since it's so easy to put off an important decision like this, we've made it especially easy to apply. You pay only £1 for your first month's protection - and you apply direct through the post.

Immediately your application is accepted, you're covered for up to £65,000 - see the figures in our ready reckoner.

Easily afforded and still tax free.

Now this remarkable plan is available from just 20p a day - and any money paid out is entirely tax free.

What's more, the total cover doesn't decrease from year to year as you get older; it stays at the high rate shown against your age today for the full 10-year life of the policy. This gives you the unusually high protection listed in our ready reckoner (see right) - so good that we let you have your policy for examination over 28 days.

During that 28-day period you are fully protected, yet you may return the policy if you are able to find another company offering you better value for money - or indeed for any other reason at all.

If you decide to keep it, you have the option to convert this 10-year plan to a longer one with savings included in it, or even a plan to repay your mortgage.

Total security for all your family from just 20p per day.

Sun Life of Canada would give your family double protection

Twice as much for accidental death.

Many people, quite rightly, worry about what would happen if an accident took them away suddenly. Without proper protection, how would their families cope? Sun Life of Canada would give your family double protection - twice as much money when they need it most, and that could mean up to £130,000. Just what you'd expect from a company that pays out over two million pounds a day in claims.

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Check through the ready reckoner now, and see how little it costs to give your family the protection they deserve. Normally there's no medical - just fill in the coupon below and tick the plan you have chosen

ONE MONTH'S PROTECTION JUST £1 NO OBLIGATION NO ONE WILL CALL

LOOK! YOU PAY LESS - GET MORE CASH.

	PLAN A	PLAN B	PLAN C	PLAN D	PLAN E
BASIC COVER	£10,000	£20,000	£35,000	£50,000	£65,000
TOTAL COVER INCLUDING ACCIDENTAL	£20,000	£40,000	£70,000	£100,000	£130,000
AMOUNT YOU PAY MONTHLY					
20-29	£ 5.00	£ 6.00	£ 7.35	£10.50	£13.65
30-33	5.00	6.00	8.05	11.50	14.55
34-37	5.00	6.00	8.40	12.00	15.60
38-41	5.00	6.00	8.40	12.00	15.60
42-45	5.00	6.00	8.40	12.00	15.60
46-49	5.00	6.00	8.40	12.00	15.60
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74-77	5.00	6.00	8.40	12.00	15.60
78-81	5.00	6.00	8.40	12.00	15.60
82-85	5.00	6.00	8.40	12.00	15.60
86-89	5.00	6.00	8.40	12.00	15.60
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274-277	5.00	6.00	8.40	12.00	15.60
278-281	5.00	6.00	8.40	12.00	15.60
282-285	5.00	6.00	8.40	12.00	15.60
286-289	5.00	6.00	8.40	12.00	15.60
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578-581	5.00	6.00	8.40	12.00	15.60
582-585	5.00	6.00	8.40	12.00	15.60
586-589	5.00	6.00	8.40	12.00	15.60
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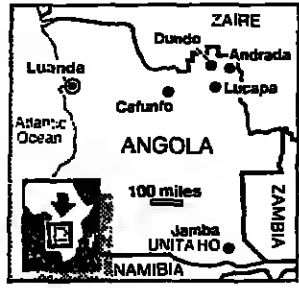
Focus on southern Africa

Unita may bargain for hostages' safety

By Richard Dowden

Unita guerrillas who have seized about 150 expatriate workers, including at least two Britons, in the northern Angola diamond mining town of Andraza...

Although most expatriates have been freed unharmed in the past, Mr Jonas Savimbi, the Unita leader, has this time lured Mr Stanislav Svoboda, the Czechoslovak deputy Foreign Minister...



Unita guerrillas are reported to have seized about 150 expatriate workers, including at least two Britons, in the northern Angola diamond mining town of Andraza...

were among those kidnapped. It also confirmed that it had 123 expatriate workers in the town at the weekend. It is thought that there may have been about another 10 Britons in Andraza on Saturday and there have been no reports about their safety.

The Red Cross in Geneva confirmed yesterday that it was in contact with Unita but was not involved in negotiations for the release of the hostages. A spokesman in Geneva said he could not confirm the number of hostages taken.

Although the nerve centre of the diamond area is at Dundo, further north, Andraza holds the main stores and repair workshops for all the diamond-mining operation in Lunda Norte province. It also contains the main sort house and Unita has already claimed it has taken away several pounds of uncut stones.

Andraza's proximity to the Zairean border suggests that the Unita force probably numbers about 2,000, crossed into Angola from Zaire, which gives secret support to the rebels.

Namibia's August deadline

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

In a new move in the long-running international wrangle over the future of Namibia, President Botha proposed yesterday that the eight-year-old UN settlement plan for the territory, known as Security Council Resolution 435, should be put into effect from August 1 this year, provided Cuban troops withdraw from Angola by the same date.

The Cubans represent "the last remaining obstacle" to Namibia's independence is not strictly new, but is perhaps clearer than any previous statement.

Mr Botha's move is seen here as a clever attempt by Pretoria and Washington to put pressure on Angola to send home the estimated 25,000-30,000 Cuban troops stationed there, a goal they have pursued jointly for several years.

Negotiations with the Angolans seemed to be making some progress towards the end of 1984 but have been in deadlock for more than a year. Strictly speaking, the Cubans have nothing to do with the Namibia issue, but Washington seized on them as a way of getting Pretoria to agree to Namibia's independence and reducing Soviet influence in the region.

The idea of setting a date for implementation of Resolution 435, according to informed sources, was agreed in principle.

Mr R F "Pik" Botha, the South African Foreign Minister, and Dr Chester Crocker, the US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, at a meeting in Geneva last month.

A further pressure on the Angolans is the threat of extensive American military aid to Unita, the Angolan insurgents led by Dr Jonas Savimbi, who claims he was cheated of power 10 years ago after the collapse of Portuguese rule in Angola.

Some aid has already been promised, and this is likely to be increased if the Angolans do not agree to the new plan. Resolution 435 provides for a UN-monitored ceasefire in Namibia between South African forces and the Swapo (South West Africa People's Organization) guerrillas fighting from bases in Angola for the territory's independence.

This would be followed by elections and independence over seven months.

Botha gets plea on torture

By Nicholas Ashford, Diplomatic Correspondent

Amnesty International yesterday launched an international campaign against human rights abuses in South Africa, claiming that there had been a dramatic increase in incidents of torture and in the arbitrary detention of opponents of apartheid.

The organization has published a 17-page briefing paper on human rights in South Africa and a document containing allegations of the widespread use of torture.

It has also sent a 10-page letter to President Botha calling on him to take 10 steps which, it says, would be evidence of his commitment to end the violations.

Those include the release of political detainees and the removal of immunity enjoyed by security officials accused of mistreating and torturing prisoners.

It also wants the establishment of independent judicial inquiries into reports that government agents had killed, abducted or attacked government critics and anti-apartheid demonstrators.

East London wants to be home to all races

From Our Own Correspondent, Johannesburg

The city council of East London, in the Eastern Cape, has voted in favour of opening the area under its jurisdiction to residence by people of all races. It is the first city to take such a step.

The mayor of East London, Mr Joe Yazbeck, said yesterday that the council had no power to implement its decision without central Government approval. It could only forward a recommendation to the Government.

The matter was voted on a week ago, but the outcome was not made public at the time. The council was split, and it was only the casting vote of Mr Yazbeck, a member of the opposition Progressive Federal Party (PFP), which enabled the motion to be passed.

Two councillors unable to attend later objected to the way the vote had been conducted. At a further session on Monday night, however, those objections, to most people's surprise, were withdrawn.

Mr Donald Card, a retired businessman and one of the councillors who voted in favour, said: "Desegregation has got to take place in the next few years, one way or another. As long as we have the Group Areas Act we are going to have racial friction."

The Act enforces racial separation of residential areas and of facilities such as schools and hospitals. Present government policy, despite President Botha's assertion that apartheid is "outmoded", is that the law should remain.

Mr Card said he was confident that most of East London's 60,000 white population would support the council's decision, but admitted that he had been called a kaffirbaait (kaffir-lover) by two abusive telephone callers yesterday.

East London, South Africa's only river port of any size, lies between the Ciskei and Transkei tribal "homelands" and has large black populations on its doorstep. This, and growing racial unrest in the region, seems to have motivated the council's decision.

The city council of Durban, further up the Indian Ocean coast, took a similar but much more limited decision on Monday, passing by 22 votes to five a resolution calling for the opening of the Greyville area of the town to all races.

Cardinal Sin reports back to the Pope

From Peter Nichols, Rome

The Archbishop of Manila is due to arrive in Rome today on a brief visit to report to the Pope on the Roman Catholic Church's part in resolving the Philippines crisis, which some see as indicative of a new role for the Vatican among the superpowers.

Cardinal Sin is expected to see Cardinal Agostino Casaroli, the Secretary of State, as well as Monsignor Achille Silvestrini, head of the Council for Public Affairs, today.

His meeting with the Pope will probably be scheduled for tomorrow and will bring the Pope's first reaction to a move which undoubtedly helped to change the nature of the Church's involvement in international political upheavals.

Acting largely on his own authority during the recent presidential elections, Cardinal Sin brought the massive weight of the Church in the Philippines firmly down on the side of Mrs Corason Aquino and the military opponents of Mr Marcos. While running the risk of putting the Vatican on one side in a civil war, he emerged with the victors and with renewed moral authority.

He underlined this moral victory with the remark: "If I wanted to be elected Pope I would have Marcos count the votes at the next conclave".

Cardinal Sin is expected to discuss a visit to the Vatican by Mrs Aquino. But the big question now being asked by Vatican observers is will Cardinal Sin's example of direct involvement in a political struggle be followed to other countries?



Iranian women dressed in black chador cloaks and holding Kalashnikov rifles at a Women's Day rally in Tehran. Ayatollah Khomeini, the religious leader, has suggested that women have military training in case they need to defend the republic.

Hunt for Marcos riches in London

From Michael Hamlyn, Manila

The Philippines Government is planning to hire a firm of British solicitors as part of its worldwide effort to claw back the ill-gotten gains of former President Marcos, his family and close associates.

A special governmental commission, whose chairman has the status of a Cabinet minister, has been set up in Manila to hunt down the property of the former President and attempt to have it returned to the Philippine people.

The main effort will be in the United States, but Mr Marcos is believed to have property in Britain, Brazil and Switzerland, too.

"Our speed of operation will depend on the working of the law in the United States, in Latin America, in Switzerland and in Britain", the commission chairman, Mr Jovito Salonga, said yesterday. Mr Salonga said the value of the assets that he and his fellow commissioners will be chasing is estimated at somewhere between \$5 billion and \$10 billion (£3.5-£6.9 billion).

The British property, Mr Salonga said, is mainly real estate and mainly in London. His commission is not at all sure how to set about getting its hands on it, but another commissioner, Mr Pedro Yap, said that it would appoint British lawyers who would do the same kind of work that a team of US lawyers has already undertaken in the New York courts.

There, it was announced earlier this week, the courts have intervened to prevent the sale of property in Manhattan and Long Island pending further proceedings.

The commission has already begun its work of sequestrating the property of the Marcos family and its associates. An announcement on the seizure of the Manila electricity supply undertaking is expected soon.

Mr Salonga's committee has been set up by President Aquino, and has been armed with powers to send for persons and papers, to seize property and seal it, if necessary, for the protection of evidence, and to dispose of assets for the benefit of the people.

The commission is also empowered to investigate other forms of corruption and to recommend safeguards to prevent graft and corruption happening again.

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Arms negotiators break off without making progress

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

As if the Reagan-Gorbachov summit of last November and the "spirit of Geneva" it engendered had never been, American and Russian arms control negotiators ended their fourth round of talks on nuclear and space weapons yesterday with each blaming the other for lack of progress.

The solitary new point they did recognize publicly was to let more than nine weeks elapse for cogitation before beginning a fifth round on May 8 - Ascension Day. This is the longest break for reflection since the talks began.

After a final plenary session at the US arms control building with 22 negotiators of each side facing each other across a long table, the chief Soviet delegate, Mr Viktor Karpov, emerged to say: "We regret there was no positive response from the American side to our proposals. We hope for more progress next time. There's still hope for that cooperative spirit, but we regretfully, don't have it."

Some four hours later, his US counterpart, Mr Max Kampelman, read a prepared text to the TV cameras, but took no questions. He said "positive factors", ultimate total elimination of nuclear weapons, recognition of importance of verification and commitment to negotiating a separate agreement on eliminating medium range missiles had not led to the hoped-for degree of progress. "Negotiating with the Soviets is difficult."

"The reason, in our view, is that the Soviet delegation has not acted to fulfil the commitments undertaken by our two leaders in the joint statement of November 21," he said. He hoped that in May the Russians would "join in a genuine effort to build on in the coming round the proposal that exists for 50 per cent reductions in the offensive nuclear arms of both sides."

LONDON: Britain will categorically rule out any linkage between a US-Soviet agreement on reducing medium-range missiles in Europe with a halt to Britain's plans to modernize its independent nuclear deterrent when Mrs Thatcher replies to the initiative which Mr Gorbachov, the Soviet leader, launched on January 15 (Nicholas Ashford writes).

Mr Gorbachov has proposed the complete elimination of US and Soviet medium-range missiles in Europe so long as British and French forces are frozen.

Mr Gorbachov's arms plan, President Reagan's counter-proposals and the Geneva arms talks were discussed yesterday during a meeting between Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, and Mr Paul Nitze, Mr Reagan's special arms adviser.

In her letter Mrs Thatcher will make clear that Britain intends to go ahead with its plans to buy the American submarine-launched Trident missiles to replace the existing Polaris force. However she is expected to welcome Soviet and American proposals to make big cuts in their nuclear arsenals.

Britain will only consider scaling back its nuclear deterrent once the US and the Soviet Union have reached agreement on cutting back their strategic range missiles. Propaganda drive, page 12

to be delivered to Moscow after the Soviet party congress ends later this month. Britain had been waiting for the US to reply first.

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The problems behind Mr Gorbachov's drive for wider use of advanced technology are summed up neatly in a satirical cartoon by a Soviet artist in which the old way, with an abacus, stands ready to batter the computer-armed new techniques.

Double defector said to be well in Moscow

From Frank Johnson, Bonn

An anonymous telephone call to Radio Liberty's London office yesterday said that Mr Oleg Tumanov, a senior editor at the station's transmitter in Munich, who is believed to have defected back to the Soviet Union he left 21 years ago, was "alive and well in Moscow".

This was learned here yesterday, although Radio Liberty in Munich refused to comment on the reports. Mr Tumanov, aged 42, disappeared on February 24. He was last seen by colleagues when he said he felt unwell and was going home.

Becoming suspicious when nothing more was heard from him for five days, station officials called the police, who forced open the door of his flat.

They found that his most valuable possessions, including his prized stamp collection, were missing, and it was later discovered that he had cleared his bank account.

Mr Tumanov, formerly in the Soviet Navy, deserted his ship in 1965 by jumping overboard in the Mediterranean and swimming six miles to the Libyan coast.

He made his way to London where he joined Radio Liberty, an US-financed station which beams short wave broadcasts to the Soviet Union. He also met in London his future wife, Svetlana, a Russian refugee.

The couple moved to Munich in 1966. Mr Tumanov acquired a reputation as being a good worker and was steadily promoted.

They had a daughter but were divorced last year. Mrs Tumanov is a Russian language teacher in Munich.

There are also veiled threats to do the same to the other former SPD Chancellor, Herr Helmut Schmidt. All this - as well as a recent pronouncement by Herr Franz Josef Strauss that "everyone knew" that political parties received donations in the way now said to be illegal - has left politicians wondering where all these summonses will end.

The system, about which Herr Strauss said everyone knew, involves businesses giving cash to various research institutes with charitable status which were really "fronts" for political parties.

Herr Brandt's only comment so far was: "I see nothing incriminating me". Leading article, page 13

Soviet halt to river diversion

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

The Kremlin has postponed indefinitely a controversial scheme to divert water from the Soviet Union's northward flowing rivers to irrigate the arid south after widespread protests by conservationists and economists.

The long-standing and grandiose scheme has been the subject of repeated attacks in the official Soviet media since it was included in draft outlines for the economy published in October. A senior official confirmed yesterday that it had been omitted from the final version, which will be approved by the 27th Communist Party Congress this week.

"At present, we can manage without the switching of the water from the northern rivers," Mr Leonid Vid, deputy chief of Gosplan, the state planning body, said. A halt to the loss of water in the Caspian and new techniques for tracing irrigation systems could be used to meet local needs.

The shelving of the scheme is seen as another determined break with the era of Leonid Brezhnev by the Kremlin leadership. Brezhnev was a strong supporter of the project, and of another even more ambitious scheme to switch water from rivers in Siberia. Both schemes were first envisaged by Russian scientists in the 19th century, but their feasibility has been questioned.

Yesterday's official disclosure appeared to confirm earlier diplomatic speculation that Mr Gorbachov is an opponent of the costly scheme. One of the central themes of his new policy is to "intensify" the economy by making better use of existing resources.

Yugoslavia has been appointed as Interior Minister to succeed Mr Kocis Rietkerk, who died 12 days ago. Mr Wiegand held the post from 1977 to 1981.

Trento cost Trento, Italy (AFP) - The cost of the dam collapse which wiped out the Alpine resort hamlet of Stava in July, killing at least 231 people, has been put at £10.6 million by an official study group.

Fog carnage Milan (Reuters) - Six people were killed and 15 others hurt in a 30-vehicle collision in thick fog on Italy's main north-south motorway, 18 miles south of Milan.

Flood offering Lima (AFP) - Villagers at Chumunani hacked a peasant farmer, aged 37, to pieces as a human sacrifice to the floodwaters of Lake Titicaca on the Peru-Bolivia border.

Rebel of Khyber Pass agrees to armistice

From Hasan Akhtar, Islamabad

An uneasy truce has been reached between the Pakistan authorities and Malik Wali Khan Kookikhel, a tribal chief in the Khyber Pass region of the North West Frontier Province. He was accused late last year of leading a bloody tribal revolt with support from the Afghan regime of Mr Babrak Karmal.

Malik Kookikhel, who is in his early seventies, met Mr Abdul Ghafoor Hoti, the governor of the province, at the government house in Peshawar for about two hours on Monday.

After the talks, the governor said Malik Kookikhel had pledged support for Pakistan's independence and integrity while the government had assured him of full respect for tribal traditions in the administration of the Khyber area.

scandal. He arrived in style on board the same Concorde supersonic plane bringing the President back from a trip to Europe. Mr Dioulo, aged 49, who was accused of having stolen some £48 million in a coffee trading scandal, has always denied the charges.

Brandt dragged into Kohl scandal

From Our Own Correspondent, Bonn

A touch of farce has entered the "false testimony" affair, which began with a Green MP's private summonses against Chancellor Helmut Kohl alleging he did not tell the truth to committees investigating illegal political donations.

In obvious retaliation, some Christian Democrats are reported to have put out a similar summons against former Chancellor Willy Brandt, the chairman of the Social Democratic Party (SPD).

There are also veiled threats to do the same to the other former SPD Chancellor, Herr Helmut Schmidt. All this - as well as a recent pronouncement by Herr Franz Josef Strauss that "everyone knew" that political parties received donations in the way now said to be illegal - has left politicians wondering where all these summonses will end.

The system, about which Herr Strauss said everyone knew, involves businesses giving cash to various research institutes with charitable status which were really "fronts" for political parties.

Herr Brandt's only comment so far was: "I see nothing incriminating me". Leading article, page 13

Jail told to hold accused Briton

Athens - The Salonika public prosecutor has ordered local prison authorities to detain a Briton now serving an eight-month prison term in Greece for theft, pending charges relating to the murder of a British tourist last summer (Mario Modiano writes).

The prisoner was arrested on January 24 when he was about to cross into Turkey in a camping van with his pregnant wife and two children.

He was found guilty of stealing the equivalent of £590 from a camp site near Salonika and jailed for eight months because he was unable to pay the fine.

Interpol has since alleged to Greek police that his fingerprints match those of a man who is wanted in connection with the murder of Stephen Frederick Henderson, of Newcastle upon Tyne, in north-west Greece last July.

Bank robbers net £2.9m

Tours (AFP) - Gunmen robbed a Bank of France branch at Niort, 90 miles west of here, of an estimated 29 million francs (£2.9 million) after taking employees hostage as they arrived for work.

The gunmen arrived at the bank at 6.45am and overpowered the watchman as he emerged from the building. The safes and vaults were emptied in an hour, and the gunmen drove off in bank vans.

MEP banned

Nommea (Reuters) - Françoise Dorothee Piromont, a Member of the European Parliament for West Germany's Greens, was refused entry to New Caledonia after being expelled from Tahiti for protesting in favour of French Polynesian independence and against French nuclear testing, during an electoral period.

Zeffirelli tax

Rome (AFP) - The Italian director Franco Zeffirelli, whose films include Jesus of Nazareth and Romeo and Juliet, will appear in court on May 2 accused of not paying tax on income of nearly one billion lire (\$660,000 dollars) in 1982 and 1983.

Killer aged 5

Miami (AP) - Prosecutors and detectives say they do not know what to do with a boy, aged five, who confessed that he pushed a three-year-old playmate five stories to his death after the toddler said he wanted to die.

Parade cover

San Francisco (Reuters) - One of San Francisco's biggest and most famous celebrations, the Chinese New Year parade, was saved at the last minute when an insurance company agreed to underwrite the event.

Aids in Malta

Valletta (Reuters) - The Health Minister, Mr Vincent Moran, said Malta's first Aids case had been confirmed, but declined to give details.

Hotel plea

Anancy, France (AP) - The owner of the luxury hotel who is seeking the removal of the former Haitian president Jean-Claude Duvalier and his family was told by a judge that a ruling would be given today.

Play censored

Tel Aviv (AP) - The Israeli censorship board has issued a ban on the Broadway musical Oh Calcutta after making cuts in the play and restricting it to people over the age of 18.

Pit inquiry

Dar Es Salaam (AFP) - The Tanzanian Government announced the setting-up of a five-man team to investigate reports that 30 people were buried alive when part of an illegal gold mine caved in near Lake Victoria.

Dutch return

The Hague (AP) - The Dutch politician Mr Hans Wiegand has been appointed as Interior Minister to succeed Mr Kocis Rietkerk, who died 12 days ago. Mr Wiegand held the post from 1977 to 1981.

Trento cost

Trento, Italy (AFP) - The cost of the dam collapse which wiped out the Alpine resort hamlet of Stava in July, killing at least 231 people, has been put at £10.6 million by an official study group.

Cairo fo... Jihad conv... riots scape... Fury over Mo... court post... in Spain... by... Soviet pilot on...

Upheaval in Egypt

Cairo fears trouble in south

The posters still cling to the grimy, hot walls of Gohouria Street and to the pillars of Asyut's railway station...

he said as much in an interview in al-Ahram yesterday - the real attention of the Mohabarrat, the Egyptian security services, has remained south of the capital...

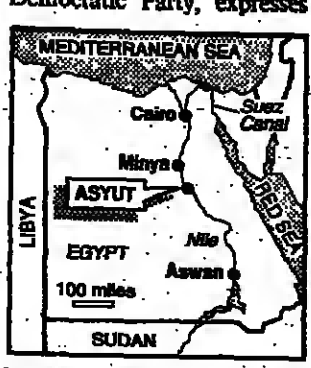
Sheikh Salama will speak at the university on February 14th, they state with confidence. At the top of each photocopied advertisement is a drawing of two crossed swords...

But the 33,000 students of Asyut never got the chance to hear the cantankerous old prelate. Well aware that Hafez Salama had already incensed President Mubarak's wrath...

It was an easy way out for the men who have to control the Egyptian city which has become the focus for Islamic fundamentalism...

For while Mr Zaki Badr, the former Governor of Asyut, is up in Cairo as the new Interior Minister, suspecting that Muslim radicals were behind last week's rioting by the police...

Officially, Asyut's city fathers evince an attitude of profound optimism about the future. Mr Abdal-Razak Hassan, president of the university and a prominent member of Mr Mubarak's National Democratic Party, expresses himself pleased with the end results of the rioting...



Yet, for the authorities here, the real threat is presented by the organized character of Islamic student opposition to the Government...

What was good was that the people did not join the rioters, he said yesterday. This was a very good pointer to the future. It showed that

the Egyptian population don't support these people.

Nevertheless, the Army has seen fit to position four tanks outside Mr Badr's old office, while squads of soldiers in full combat uniform with steel helmets stand guard on Nile bridges...

Only two-and-a-half weeks ago, students in Minya, to the north of Asyut, smashed up furniture in their lecture halls. Then, just two days before the police intervened, up to 300 fundamentalist students at Asyut staged a demonstration in sympathy with their colleagues in Minya.

There is now a growing suspicion here that these Asyut students may have had some influence within the police force, encouraging in Asyut the rumours that their terms of conscription were to be extended.

Yet, for the authorities here, the real threat is presented by the organized character of Islamic student opposition to the Government. Perhaps it is because many of Asyut's students come from poor, conservatively religious families, perhaps because Asyut contains an equally radical Coptic minority, that the university

has become a place of dissent for fundamentalists.

University officials cope with this as best they can. When 1,000 students stood for election to the 250-strong student union last December, Mr Hassan and his colleagues vetoed 300 of the candidates who had fundamentalist backgrounds, but to no avail. Many of the other students standing for election had deliberately hidden their sympathies, and the union is today controlled by members of the Gamaat Islami, the "Islamic Groups" as they like to call themselves.

On the surface, their demands appear politically harmless. "All we want is sharia law, Muslim law applied to the country", a male medical student complained.

But the mood quickly changes. Egypt's Christian Coptic community must respect sharia law, they say. The Government has to show respect for Islam. Why is America humiliating Egypt? Why is America making Egypt poor?

The questions go on and on, rising in intensity. Of the 33,000 students, perhaps only about 1,000 follow the Gamaat Islami. But they remember that four of their number from Asyut University are still imprisoned for allegedly helping in the plot to kill President Sadat.



The Queen with Mrs Jill Wran, wife of the Premier of New South Wales, in Sydney.

Sophisticated city smiles

Australians seem to be abandoning any pretence that republicanism has a future in what is supposedly the most independently-minded of the Queen's realms. That, at least, is the impression left by the start of this third and final leg of the royal tour.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were given an affectionate and enthusiastic welcome when they arrived in Australia's most sophisticated city, Sydney, yesterday. The royal couple rode in an open Rolls-Royce to Macquarie Street, the heart of the city founded by white settlement of Australia almost two centuries ago.

From Stephen Taylor, Sydney

just to show that there was no lack of national pride, delivered a rousing rendition of "Advance Australia Fair", the anthem introduced by the Hawke Government in 1983. Replying to Mr Wran's message of welcome, the Queen said Australia had always been a land of promise and opportunity, but there were perhaps few nations where potential and opportunity had been matched so well by actual achievement.

The royal couple leave for Melbourne today.

Aborigines plotting revenge on Hawke

From Our Correspondent Sydney

Aboriginal leaders, angered by the Hawke Government's decision to abandon an election pledge on land rights, yesterday vowed to retaliate by disrupting showpiece national events.

On Monday night, the Cabinet finally rejected a plan to draw up federal legislation and impose it on state governments unwilling to accept a preferred land-rights model.

Mr Gary Foley, an Aboriginal activist, said demonstrations would be staged to disrupt next year's defence of the America's Cup and the 1988 bicentennial celebrations to draw international attention to the issue.

Land rights for Aborigines have long had the support of a significant group in the Labor Party but it was not until the Hawke Government made it an election issue that it had any chance of becoming legislation.

The demise of Aboriginal land rights hopes was signalled last month during Western Australia's state election when Mr Brian Burke, the Labor Premier, vowed to resign if Canberra tried to force him to submit, and Mr Hawke said he could appreciate his objections.

Jihad convenient riots scapegoat

From Alice Brinton, Cairo

Investigations into last week's riots by security force conscripts are under way in Cairo amid much speculation about what triggered them.

Egypt's new Interior Minister, Mr Zaki Badr, is quoted in the semi-official al-Ahram newspaper as saying that some Islamic extremists may have infiltrated the security forces and urged the conscripts to riot in a plot to overthrow President Mubarak's Government.

Mr Badr said the President himself had raised the possibility of infiltration by Islamic and other opposition groups when he met new security chiefs who took over after the riots.

In a further indication that the Government may be looking for a convenient scapegoat, al-Ahram also reported that the authorities had found a diary belonging to Lieutenant-Colonel Abbas al-Zomor, a prominent member of the outlawed Muslim Jihad organization, in which he blamed the group's inability to overthrow the regime on its failure to infiltrate the security forces and Army. Colonel al-Zomor is serving a long jail sentence for his role in the assassination of President Sadat in 1981.

The Government at first blamed the conscripts' mutiny on a rumour that their terms of duty were being extended by a year.

Mr Badr said their attack on hotels in the Pyramids area of Giza may have been part of a plot to undermine Egypt's tourist industry. However, many Western diplomats and Egyptians who study the political scene here believe the conscripts were simply irritated by the sight of so many luxury establishments at odds with their often appalling standard of living.

These observers are often reluctant to accept the conspiracy theory, believing that what began as a spontaneous burst of anger against the Government could have taken on more sinister implications when and if the rioters were joined by Muslim fundamentalists and other government opponents as the violence spread throughout the capital and to some provincial towns.

Fury over court post in Spain

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

The opposition parties here have reacted to the election of a new president of the Constitutional Court, Spain's highest legal post, by declaring publicly that the court has "lost credibility".

Professor Francisco Tomás y Valiente, who before joining the court in 1980 held a chair of legal history at Salamanca University, was chosen by nine of the 12 judges of the court.

An impression, despite the criticisms, of new winds blowing was confirmed when eight judges went on to choose the only woman on the bench, Dr Gloria Begoña, as the court's deputy president.

Dr Tomás, who is 53, has over the past five years been among the judges consistently upholding a forward-looking interpretation of the 1978 Constitution.

This line has bitterly upset the opposition parties, which have repeatedly gone to the Constitutional Court when they have found themselves outvoted in Parliament on controversial laws such as those permitting abortion and stricter state control over private education.

In the abortion case Dr Tomás criticized the Bill, which permits abortion only in certain circumstances, as not going far enough.

The Constitutional Court, which was created after the return of democracy, has so far failed to achieve undisputed independence. The opposition accuses the Government of packing the court with its own nominees.

Moderates scared off by killing

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

The murder of Mr Zafer al-Masri, the first Palestinian to agree to be appointed mayor in the occupied territories by Israel, appears to have frightened off the leading moderates who were thinking of following his example.

Both the men who had agreed to be considered as mayor of al-Bireh withdrew from the reckoning yesterday. One of them, Mr Jamil Tariffa, said Israel was in part responsible for the murder of the Nablus mayor, because it had turned the job into a political one.

The other candidate, Mr Walid Mustafa Hamad, took out an advertisement in an east Jerusalem newspaper withdrawing his offer because of "unexpected events".

The newspaper, al-Mithaq, carried another announcement from a potential candidate as mayor of Ramallah, Mr Nadiim Zaro, saying he had never even asked for the job.

The murder has also been given as the reason for a group of moderate Palestinians from the Hebron area abandoning a trip to Amman to tell King Hussein of Jordan personally that they supported his new position of non-cooperation with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

Israeli police say forensic experts have found that the bullets which killed Mr Masri were fired from the same gun used in two assassinations in recent months, responsibility for which has been claimed by the PLO.

Soviet pilot on trial

Peking (AFP) - A Soviet man charged with commanding a Soviet passenger plane to China in December went on trial yesterday in the north-east city of Harbin, the first foreigner charged with hijacking in China.

The trial is public, and is expected to last for three or four days. The defendant, named as Alimuradov Stanali Gadli Ogly, a co-pilot, could face three years to life in jail. He landed the Antonov 24 in

China on December 19 when a shortage of fuel forced him to abandon plans to take it to South Korea.

Moscow asked China to return the co-pilot but Peking sent back only the plane and its 42 crew members and passengers.

The trial comes a few weeks before a visit by Mr Ivan Arkhipov, a First Soviet Deputy Premier, who in December became the most senior Soviet official to come to China since 1969.

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America slowly being destroyed by drugs, White House is told

From Michael Binyon, Washington

A horrifying picture of a country being slowly destroyed by drugs is painted in a report by a presidential commission, which says the US drug industry is now worth \$110 billion (£75 billion) a year in illegal profits, and accounts for almost 40 per cent of all organized crime.

Some 25 million Americans have tried cocaine, with between five and six million using it at least once a month; and one in every four of the population has tried marijuana with about 20 million people using it once a month.

The 455-page report, compiled over the past two and a half years and delivered to the White House on Monday, called drug abuse a threat to America's national security. It recommends use of military force and drug testing by employers to stamp out smuggling and drug use.

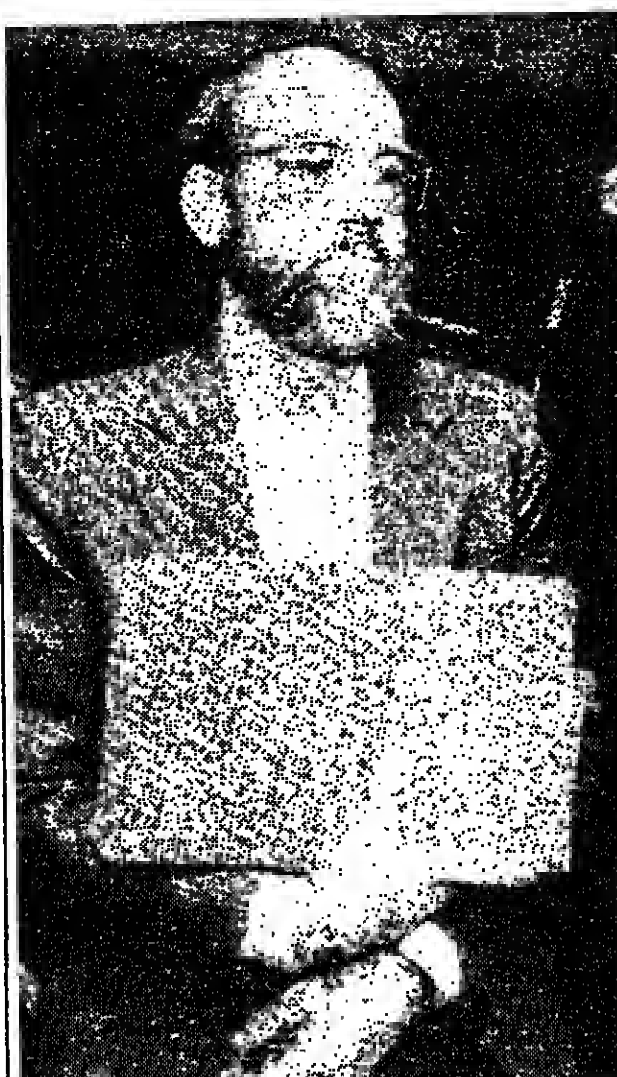
"No attempt to eliminate organized crime from this country can possibly be complete without a concerted campaign to reduce the demand for narcotics," said Judge Irving Kaufman, chairman of the commission. "It is the drug users who finance organized crime."

The commission said newer groups such as motor cycle gangs and drug rings in Mexico and Colombia had joined the Mafia in drug dealing. These groups were marked by "a degree of violence and corruption unsurpassed by any other criminal activity."

It added: "The situation confronting us is a crisis nationally and internationally. The menace of drugs is not restricted to a particular segment of society, but is now of a scope and severity that is a threat to our national security."

The report maintained that Cuba and Nicaragua aided traffickers in smuggling drugs to the US, while Bulgaria helped smuggle drugs to Western Europe from the Middle East — allegations strongly denied by the communist governments.

The commission recommended drastic steps to fight drug smuggling, including the greater use of the US Army, Military and intelligence units should be mobilized to deal with the problem. All federal agencies, including the top secret National Security Agency, should pool their information, and an intelligence operation centre should be established immediately.



Former US Navy communications expert Jerry Whitworth arriving at a San Francisco court to face charges of selling code and communications secrets to the Russians as part of a spy-ring headed by the already-convicted John Walker.

China tells travelling officials to behave

Peking (Reuters) — China's Communist Party yesterday warned officials travelling abroad to behave themselves after the dismissal of one accused of immoral conduct.

The official *People's Daily* ran an editorial on the expulsion from the party of Mr Zhou Erfu, aged 72, a former vice-minister of culture.

It said he was expelled for having a "corrupt life-style violating Communist moral standards". Unconfirmed reports circulating in Peking say he was reprimanded by no less than Mr Deng Xiaoping after visiting prostitutes and sex shops in Tokyo.

The *People's Daily* said Chinese travelling abroad should "display the graceful bearing of the Chinese people" and "uphold national self-esteem".

"Proper behaviour must be strictly observed by all personnel when engaging in exchanges with other countries."

"It is very important to tighten discipline among people engaged in the field of foreign affairs to prevent anyone doing anything detrimental to the national or personal dignity," the paper said.

The Chinese authorities have also been trying to stop officials making unnecessary trips abroad which waste precious foreign exchange.

Nakasone decides on Star Wars role for Japan

From David Watts, Tokyo

A leading Japanese newspaper says the Prime Minister has decided that Japan will take part in the American Star Wars programme.

The *Nihon Keizai Shimbun*, quoting a government source, said yesterday that Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone had already made up his mind that Japan would participate despite formidable political obstacles.

The Prime Minister himself confirmed that the Government would send a joint government-private sector search delegation to the US before Mr Nakasone's visit next month. This will be the third delegation to visit in connection with the Strategic Defence Initiative but the first to include the private sector.

The *Nihon Keizai Shimbun* story is the latest in a series of hints that Japan will not be long in answering the year-old invitation to participate. Two weeks ago Mr Nakasone told a Diet budget committee that Japan could not indefinitely reserve its position.

Mr Nakasone's enthusiasm for SDI has been well-known but there have been indications that the Foreign Minister, Mr Shintaro Abe, is not as enthusiastic.

"That's probably more a question of style than substance," a diplomat said. "Mr Nakasone always takes a higher profile than Mr Abe and at the end of the day he probably feels the same way. It's just a question of degree and the fact that Mr Abe will have to do a lot of the explaining once the decision is made public."

There is certainly to be a lot of explaining to be done with an opposition wary of Mr Nakasone's enthusiasm for helping out the Americans with things military.

The presence of industry representatives in the delegation going to the US indicates the shift of opinion. At first industry claimed to be uninterested in SDI for one of two reasons — either because Japanese technological superiority was such that it did not need to dirty its hands with such a project, or that private firms were unwilling to be seen co-operating with the US military-industrial complex in a country which at least pays lip service to its peace constitution.

The fact that not only British and West Germans but also French industry are now in a position to benefit from SDI has clearly encouraged Japanese industry.

According to *Nihon Keizai Shimbun*, Japan is likely to submit a letter to the US Government after it assesses the results of the mission. This would most likely indicate participation by the private sector.

Though there is unlikely to be overt pressure from the US for a decision, the Japanese will undoubtedly feel the need to show progress by the time Western leaders hold their Tokyo economic summit in May.

US Navy surgeon jailed for deaths

Washington (AP) — A surgeon has been jailed for four years and ordered to be dismissed from the US Navy for the involuntary manslaughter and homicide of three patients at Bethesda US Naval Hospital.

The court-martial jury of nine naval officers also ordered Commander Donald M. Billig, who served as chief of heart surgery at Bethesda, to forfeit all future pay and allowances.

After 90 minutes' deliberation last Thursday, the jury found Billig guilty of causing the operation-table deaths through gross surgical errors. Billig, aged 55 and nearly blind in one eye, could have been jailed for up to 11½ years.

How to be the successful transatlantic business traveller.

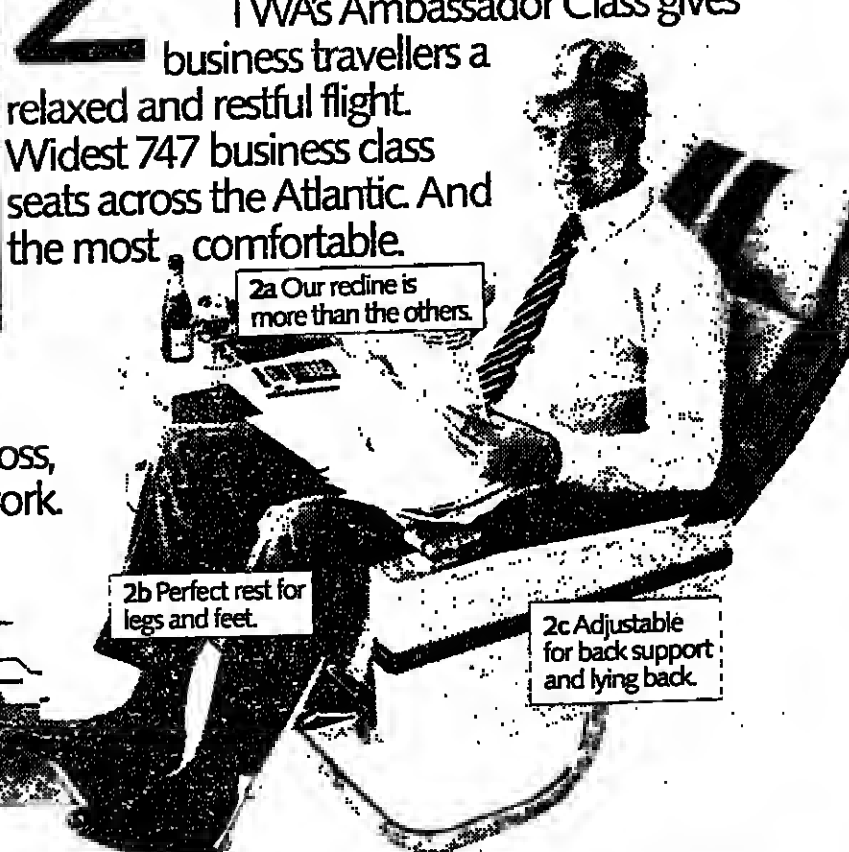
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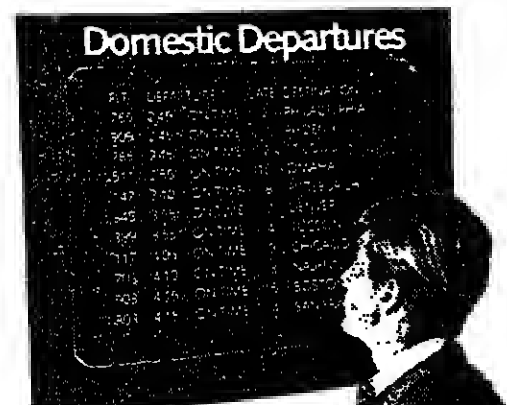


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Leading the way to the USA



Six states still face food crisis

Rome (AFP) — Despite bumper harvests in Africa last year, six countries in 1986 will have problems feeding their populations, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization.

In a special report issued on the situation in Africa, the FAO named the six as Angola, Botswana, Cape Verde, Ethiopia, Mozambique and Sudan. It said they would need 2.4 million tonnes of food aid.

The FAO put the total needs of the 45 countries south of the Sahara at 3.3 million tonnes, half that of last year. A further 5.3 million tonnes would be imported commercially.

This was despite a generally excellent harvest in 1985, which was a record 54.3 million tonnes, 14.2 million more than in 1984 and 23 per cent up on the average of the past five years.

The FAO called on donor countries to help by funding the purchase of food in areas of surplus in Africa and their transport to areas of need.

The report drew attention to Sudan, which had a record harvest of 4.6 million tonnes in 1985 and a surplus of 520,000 tonnes. Yet it did not have the resources to distribute the food.

Prospects for the 1986 harvest are variable, the report said. In most of southern Africa the rains were late but good in January and February, and the harvest should be normal if they continued, but Angola and Mozambique would be hit by the effects of civil war and Botswana by a sixth successive year of drought.



Ambassador dies in Caracas blaze

A woman being winched to safety by helicopter (above) from a fire which destroyed the Chilean Embassy in Caracas. Chile's Ambassador to Venezuela, Señor Carlos de Costa, and 14 other people died in the blaze on Monday night.

The fire consumed the top two floors of a 14-storey building in which the embassy was located, according to the Fire Department chief, Commander Enrique Andrés García (Reuters reports).

Witnesses said they had seen at least three people leap from the upper floors. At least five other victims were embassy employees.

Transfer of hi-tech on Thatcher's Seoul list

Seoul (Reuters) — Mrs Margaret Thatcher will be the first British head of government to visit South Korea when she comes here from May 2 to 4 at the invitation of President Chun Doo Hwan.

President Chun is due to visit Britain next month during a European tour.

South Korea exported goods worth £658 million to Britain in 1984 and imported British products worth £390 million. British Embassy officials said Mrs Thatcher's talks were expected to include transfer of high industrial

technology and economic co-operation in areas including electronics, cars, petrochemicals, medicine and bio-engineering.

Reforms sought: South Korea's Roman Catholic civil rights group yesterday joined an opposition campaign demanding constitutional reforms (Reuters reports).

Mr Lee Don Myong, chairman of the Korean Catholic Justice and Peace Commission, accused the government of holding 1,000 political prisoners and demanded their release.

Food left by Scott found in Antarctic

Wellington (AP, Reuters) — Antarctic researchers have found a food cache left by Captain Scott during his fatal expedition to the South Pole in 1912, officials announced here yesterday.

The cache included candles, cans of cocoa, egg powder, jam, sardines and matches. Some items were dated 1910.

They were never used by the British explorer, whose party died on the return journey from the Pole after the Norwegian, Roald Amundsen, had narrowly beaten them in the race to be first there.

The scientists found the cache at Batter Point in McMurdo Sound. The items are to be displayed in a Christchurch museum.

Navy's gigolo pays \$40,000 for romances

Newport, Rhode Island (AP) — Commander John Hollis, aged 39, of the US Navy, was convicted yesterday of sexually pursuing enlisted women under his command, fined \$10,000 (£7,000) and ordered to forfeit \$30,000 in pay.

He escaped the jail term requested by the prosecution but the jury of six officers confined him to the Newport naval base for 60 days.

Four petty officers testified that the commander dined and romantically pursued them from December 1984 to August 1985.

Fraternization "on terms of military equality" by officers with enlisted personnel is a violation of US Navy law.

Heart of gold

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Confusion is werewolf is

The Savan Shore

Wolven

The Young Vic

THE ARTS

Television Heart of gold

There is a tradition of lovable cockney heroes, stretching from the wilder excesses of 19th-century fiction to a series such as Boon (Central). The eponymous hero (played by Michael Elphick) is a "bit of a lad" in every conceivable sense, with one eye upon what no doubt he calls "ladies" and the other upon the hearts of the television audience. He need not look at his own heart, of course, which is so egregiously in the right place that a Salvation Army band could not be more visible.

Of course honesty and a certain rugged loveliness are attractive qualities, but they are not quite so overwhelming that a whole series can be built around them. And Boon, with its eighth episode, is beginning to show signs of strain — a great deal of drama is being concocted out of a few relatively trivial incidents, which means that it has acquired a frantic air not dissimilar to that of the average soap opera. In last night's programme the hero, known as a "franchise troubleshooter", was fighting the forces of evil in the guise of two antique dealers. One cannot expect great performances to spring from such a scenario — certainly the female villain was signalling her unpleasant intentions from several miles away — but one hoped for a certain inventiveness.

Unfortunately, the script failed to rise to the few occasions available, and as a result the whole enterprise stayed rather flat. But the main problem was that of tone — like many other contemporary series on television, Boon tries to oscillate between comedy and melodrama while only managing to fall through the middle.

What It's Worth (Channel 4) returns with a new series devoted to consumers and their "rights". The programme has a double advantage, therefore: it can plausibly claim to perform a public service (in last night's episode it exposed a man who took advantage of the misery of the unemployed) while at the same time adding to the harmless stock of public amusement with its less serious items. In the latter category must be included the pursuit of the programme's victims by the relentless interviewer — an investigative version of the foot-in-the-door approach. This generally ends in a confrontation or, even better, a fight — and must be very good for the ratings.

Peter Ackroyd

Verdi and Puccini should soon be smiling (or scowling?) at one another across the Thames: After Aida opens at the Old Vic on March 19 preceded, today week at Wyndham's, by Café Puccini, the first full-scale play by the versatile Robin Ray; interview by John Higgins

Romantic operations of a born entertainer

Ray, with Bohemian bottle, on the set of Café Puccini

In successive weeks this month Verdi and Puccini open at the theatres, not opera-houses, on either side of the Thames. On your right, facing downstream, the Old Vic has Julian Mitchell's After Aida, which tells how Verdi and Boito after much mutual suspicion came to work together on Otello. It was reviewed on this page towards the end of last year, when it toured Wales under the title of Verdi's Messiah. On your left is Café Puccini at Wyndham's, the first full-length play by the actor, broadcaster and writer Robin Ray. Here the whole of Puccini's life, not just a slice of it, is put on stage and intercut with very familiar arias.

The rival teams have been eyeing one another at a distance, slightly surprised at the coincidence. But, as Robin Ray observes with due decorum, "There were two successful operas about Manon, so why should there not be two plays about opera composers?" A less courteous man might have pointed to the matter of La Bohème, over which Puccini and Leoncavallo squabbled furiously, an episode which features in Café Puccini.

Ray was in his twenties when he had his first encounter with opera. During National Service he had made friends with a fellow-officer who stayed on in the RASC and became one of the Army's spokesmen. The job carried with it a flat in Berkeley Square and a certain entertainment allowance. One night, when the

nightingales were not singing, the officer placed a cognac in Ray's left hand, a libretto in his right and Bohème on the turntable. "It was", says Ray, "for Puccini and me, just as for Rodolfo and Mimì, love at first sight. Inevitably that was the Beecham recording with De Los Angeles and Björling. From that day it has never been dropped from my private list of desert island discs."

Later a 10-year stint of reviewing for Capital Radio kept Robin Ray in weekly touch with classical records. But the idea of a Puccini play came from Andrew Lloyd Webber. They first met on another of Ray's long-running programmes, Face the Music.

"His proposal was something based on that fight with Leoncavallo over who should compose an opera on Murger's Scènes de la vie de Bohème. I took the idea away and reckoned that at most it would make a one-act piece. And for a time I rather avoided Andrew, because he does like getting his own way. But I worked with his Really Useful Theatre Company on shows like Side by Side by Sondheim and Tomfoolery, and the name of Puccini had to surface again.

"This was five years later and the proposal was for a 'Side by Side by Puccini'. Andrew claimed that Puccini made arrangements of his most popular melodies for small orchestras in cafés and hotels. When I asked him for evidence, he simply replied 'I'm

telling you so'. But it did provide the idea for Café Puccini, and before I could turn round I found myself committed to a 'Sydmonton Special', one of those musicals which gets an airing at his private festival each July.

Ray had written sketches for the theatre, and compilations of other people's work, but never a play. He was determined that he should not turn out the stock Radio 4 composer-biography. The arias themselves were to be the starting-point for episodes in Puccini's life: the first successes, the fiasco of Butterfly, the elopement with Elvira, the affair (real or imagined) with the housemaid Doria. Whenever possible the chronology of the music should fit the chronology of Puccini's life, although a couple of liberties are taken with this.

"The first period of writing was intense. It is too pompous to say that I felt inspired, but I did feel a touch of that white heat of creative activity. I stood at the typewriter and within eight days produced a script of 104 pages. On one side was a pile of opera records and on the other all the Puccini biographies, with Mosco Carner always at the top. What you will see at Wyndham's will be very different, but at least there was something for Sydmonton. I've always been a sprinter, never a long-distance runner. At school I never managed anything beyond the 100 yards."

Has Puccini himself changed in



Concerts American brass in all its splendour

Milwaukee SO/ Foss Barbican

There is no denying that, while American orchestras do not always play with the character of ours over here, their standards of technique and ensemble continue to be quite remarkable. Copland's Fanfare for the Common Man for instance, which opened this concert by the visiting Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, was declaimed by the brass with thrilling security and splendour of tone, and the same players contributed a rousing climax to Ives's Decoration Day.

The whole of Ives's imaginative world seemed to be distilled in this wonderful little satirical, nostalgic wistfulness, the extraordinarily daring orchestral strokes, the capacity to evoke a scene from New England life — in this case the commemoration of the victims of the Civil War — with almost tangible vividness. The conductor, Lukas Foss, sorted out the complex

textural layers most convincingly, conjuring a moment of magic when the offstage hugle-call drifted evocatively past a quiet backdrop of tremolo strings.

Beethoven's astonishingly dynamic Seventh Symphony illustrated the other side of things. The rhythmic control was immaculate; Foss brought out some telling detail; and in the Allegretto an outstanding string section really showed what it could do. And yet somehow the performance as a whole seemed to lack perspective, even involvement; the finale did not really blow the audience out of their seats as Beethoven surely intended it should.

Earlier, in Bruch's First Violin Concerto, the orchestra had provided a finely sonorous accompaniment to which Nigel Kennedy's richness of tone was more than equal. The soloist handled the technical problems as if they did not exist (the interpretative ones hardly do anyway) and delighted his audience with a bonus — some "Milwaukee Blues".

Malcolm Hayes

Bournemouth Sinfonietta/ Calcraft Elizabeth Hall

Six concerts this week and next in tribute to Joaquín Rodrigo, the doyen of Spanish composers, began on Monday night with the Bournemouth Sinfonietta, who are giving four of them. Now in his eighty-fifth year, the composer was present with his wife to hear Raymond Calcraft conduct two of his 11 works in concert form which together represent his major contributions to the orchestral repertory.

Being deprived of sight since the age of three has been a factor in developing Rodrigo's musical sensibilities, and his flair for instrumental colour in a romantic idiom. A feeling for his native heritage shapes much of the impressionistic style and content of the Concierto serenata (1952), in which leuan Jones was the nimble and neat harp soloist and the writing uses only an occasional harmonic tartness to invigorate the echoes of a hygone grace of spirit.

Thirty years later Rodrigo added the Concierto como un divertimento as his second

concerto for cello, this one written for Julian Lloyd Webber and clearly intended to combine a folksy lyricism with some demands on performing technique. Its character shows more conscious contrivance than other works of Rodrigo, with a corresponding reliance on gestures that Mr Lloyd Webber imbued with only fulfil cogency.

The conductor drew a warm and expressive response from the orchestra, as also in the watercolour delicacy of Rodrigo's Distoni Saraband with its evanescent remembrances of a courtly past. Ravel's Mother Goose and Falla's El Amor Brujo helped to frame a context for the rest, in performances that caught the fanciful enchantment of the former more successfully than the haunting dramatic ritual of the latter.

Noël Goodwin

Andreas Schmidt, the young German bass-baritone who recently made his British debut in the Covent Garden production of Faust, sings in three performances of the Faure Requiem with the Philharmonia Orchestra, on Sunday at St David's Hall, Cardiff, and on Sunday and Tuesday at the Festival Hall. He replaces Renato Bruson. Carlo Maria Giulini conducts.

Theatre Confusion in the werewolf idiom

The Saxon Shore Almeida

The opening of David Rudkin's new play (delayed by the illness of Robert Edlison) brings about an alliance between a writer of uncompromising originality and a courageously enlightened management.

With its meagre resources, the Almeida has assembled a crack company, commissioned a score from Oliver Knussen and secured a spell-binding replacement performance from Ian McDiarmid in under a week. Pierre Audi and his team have gone to work on The Saxon Shore in the same all-or-nothing spirit that Rudkin brought to writing it and, if there were any justice in this world, the result should have been an heroic event instead of the benighted ordeal that engulfed Monday night's house.

According to one advance interview the piece originated in the initial images of a werewolf and a Saxon farmer. Putting these two together took Rudkin back to Roman Britain, and to a fable of the transplanted "British Saxons" who were left to hold the Empire's northernmost frontier when the legions moved out in 410. The setting is Hadrian's Wall — evoked by Hildegard Bechtler as a sink-

ing concrete pyramid — where Athdark, the protagonist, is employed as a guard. It is not his only task. Besides serving with the Roman Territorials he is also struggling to learn Latin, while at night he falls in under the barbarous King Cambyses (Mr McDiarmid) and turns into a werewolf. It is a busy life.

As the play opens the werewolves are back after a night's marauding, smacking their chops over the babies they have devoured, when Athdark limps in with a flint axe-head embedded in his side. It is still there next morning when he awakens as a perplexed Christian with no memories of the night before. He decides, for no clear reason, to hide the wound, and spends much of the first act hobbling through his agricultural and religious duties in a state of agonizing pain.

As he is played by Gerard Murphy, a mastery exponent of guilt and physical anguish, it is difficult to pay attention to anything apart from that suppurating wound. This is a pity as the early scenes also contain an arresting sermon (ferily delivered by Jonathan Kent) relating the British inheritance to the biblical story of Ahab and Jezebel. This engages the plot when Mr Murphy, sweating and delirious, blunders over the wall and falls into the hands of a



Gerard Murphy: mastery of guilt and physical anguish

Celtic princess who cures his wound — only later to fall victim to his fangs during one of his nightly transformations. The point of that killing, it seems, is that Athdark loses his precarious sense of civilized identity when the Romans leave and reverts to barbarism. But the plot-line is extremely confusing — partly because of the multiple doublings of the company of seven and partly through Rudkin's changes of idiom, which plunge from tirades and fairy-tales to telegraphic werewolf speech and anachronistic comedy.

"It's 367 all over again", says Pauline Delaney, wearily watching a town being put to fire and the sword. After lunch like that it is hard to elamber back on to the elevated plane. The idioms tend to cancel each other out. Very rare are the occasions when they are used to grammatically ironic effect, as in one superb double-take where Athdark reads a signal of the Roman defeat and is so delighted at finally understanding Latin that he fails to register the catastrophe.

Irving Wardle

The Black Jacobins Riverside

This is already proving to be a good year for tyrants taking early baths. It is a happy coincidence that the "retirement" of Baby Doc Duvalier came so soon before this revival of C.L.R. James's play about Toussaint l'Ouverture and the 1791 slave revolt in San Domingo, now known as Haiti: the event has rather overshadowed the fiftieth anniversary of the work's prevailing English production, following this month, with Paul

Martin Cropper

Penderecki Festival

stock of Penderecki's extraordinary career. His early, worldwide success was with violently avant-garde pieces, often on apocalyptic themes. But from the late 1970s onwards came a radical change towards compositions using traditional harmonies and thematic structures, often consciously reflecting Polish national sentiment (particularly in the wake of the Solidarity uprising).

This programme vividly contrasted the two ages of Penderecki. First the composer conducted the RAM Opera Orchestra and Chorus in Canticum Canticorum Salomonis, a 1973 work which

seems to sum up, and indeed catalogues, his enfant terrible explorations. These days the catalogue does sound a little like yesterday's fashions: the Song of Solomon splintered into jagged syllables, or delivered in a cacophony of melismas; the orchestration a familiar mixture of quasi-aleatoric scramblings and mysterious repose.

But, although the music rarely conveyed the sensual excitement of this celebrated piece of erotica, one could not ignore its dramatic appeal. The moment towards the end when an enormous tutti was gradually filtered down to two solitary basses, before the

throbbing pedal-point, and these low, thick sonorities predominate throughout. Predictably the final defining vision granted to Adam and Eve — of future wars and disease — brings the best out of Penderecki: a passacaglia, slithering downwards, which builds to some searing dimaxes.

Nicholas Cleobury conducted with exemplary clarity, and among a talented group of solo singers the tenor Christopher Ventris (Archangel Michael) and the counter-tenor Colin Cree (Death) performed with particular assurance.

Richard Morrison

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Advertisement for the play 'Moll' at the Young Vic. Text: Previews from March 26th. Eileen Atkins & Theatre Cwyd's acclaimed Moll by Euripides. Moll a new version by Jeremy Brooks. Directed by Toby Robertson. The Young Vic. 01 823 6363. Running Time: 90 mins.

Geraldine Norman unravels the \$6 million mystery of the Getty Museum's controversial old master

Fake with a fortune at stake?

Unfolding of the saga's many secrets

The former history of the painting is shrouded in mystery. Hitherto quite unknown, it was found somewhere in Europe by Derek Johns, a London dealer who used to run Sotheby's Old Master Department. He has kept the identity of the former owner a closely-guarded secret.

In selling the painting, Johns entered into a partnership with two other dealers, Artemis of London and Eugene Thaw of New York, the latter a brilliant dealer trusted more than any other by American museums. Thaw sold the painting first to Ronald Lauder, a wealthy private collector who is Caspar Weinberger's assistant at the US Defense Department, the son of Estée Lauder and an influential trustee of the Metropolitan Museum.

Then the trouble started. Lauder asked Alain Tarica to look at the painting he had purchased and Tarica pronounced it a fake — and, moreover, a fake by two different hands. Thaw took the painting back and refunded the purchase price. He next loaned it for a few weeks to the Metropolitan Museum in New York and the art world flocked to see the controversial painting. Finally he sold it to the Getty Museum.

Turned his hand to complete inventions

While limiting himself to a minimum of restoration on museum pictures, Cavenaghi was said to have frequently repainted pictures almost completely for private clients and occasionally to have turned his hand to complete inventions.

Last autumn Tarica approached *The Times* and offered to pay the costs of sending any scientists of our choice to check through the results of the technical examination the Getty had made. The Getty agreed to receive scientists working for *The Times*. So far, so good — but no properly qualified scientist would agree to go.

The Institut Royal du Patrimoine Artistique in Brussels was first approached since it has done more work on early Flemish painting than any other institution. The director, Mme Lilian Maschelein, acknowledged that the painting qualified as being of national importance to Belgium but said that she could agree to work on it only if invited to do so by the Getty itself or the Belgian Government.

The Getty balked at issuing such an invitation, saying that it had complete confidence in the painting and, for its own part, saw no need for a second opinion. Other scientists were unwilling to offend so influential an institution.

John Walsh, director of the Getty, then suggested a compromise. It would review its scientific evidence for me if I came in person, and for Alain Tarica if he came with me. The atmosphere in the laboratory which nestles in the basement of the imitatioo Romano villa housing the Getty Museum was highly charged as Walsh, Ronald Laskin the curator, Andrea Rothe the restorer, and various assistants gathered to meet the troublemaker.

Spiky questions and elaborate explanations gradually gave way to face as Tarica and Rothe, both of excitable temperament, began to

The London National Gallery is compiling evidence on how the 15th-century artist Dieric Bouts painted. This laudable and scholarly endeavour is aimed at helping California's Getty Museum prove it has not bought a Bouts fake. The museum spent a reputed \$6 million on an "Annunciation" last year which is believed to have been painted as a companion to the National Gallery's "Entombment", long attributed to Bouts. If the two paintings can be proved to use an identical technique it will ward off the suggestion made by Alain Tarica, a New York dealer, that the Annunciation is a 20th-century fake.

But life is not that easy. Most scholars specialising in early Flemish painting find the Annunciation odd in one way or another. And the results of the routine scientific investigation of the picture made by the Getty Museum contain signs that features have been added to the

composition in a later century, probably our own.

Tarica claims that the picture has been completely repainted in the 20th-century. He believes that a leading Italian picture restorer, Luigi Cavenaghi, began work on it around 1960 but only finished the two figures. He says that most of the picture was painted recently, imitating the manner of Bouts.

A Dutch follower of van der Weyden, Dieric Bouts, imbued his stiff, almost sculptural, figures with mystical intensity. Only three works can be firmly attributed to his hand, around which a group of attributed pictures has been gathered because of their similar painterly vision and technique.

The National Gallery owns two paintings in this attributed class and its scientific department, one of the best in Europe, is preparing a detailed report on

them. "I think we may get as near proving the case as one institution can do for another", says Alistair Smith, the keeper responsible for northern paintings. David Bomford, the scientist in charge, adds: "We have seen absolutely nothing to make us doubt the painting over there. We will put up the evidence on our paintings and it is up to other people to draw their own conclusions." The study is due to be completed by the end of this month.

Alain Tarica remains sceptical. "If a man is good, he too can analyse the materials and techniques and get them right. Look at the famous van Meegeren forgeries. Everything seemed right until new methods of dating pigments were invented in the 1960s. You can now use neutron activation analysis or study the ratio of various isotopes of the pigment. The Getty should get an independent laboratory to make these tests."

Little is thus known about the correct physical characteristics of such a painting.

The Getty's case for considering the painting authentic rests first on its similarity to the National Gallery picture, particularly the identical retining canvas and similar range of pigments. The extensive use of lead tin yellow, a pigment not in general use after 1725, is taken as a sign of age; it was rediscovered in the 1940s, however, and has been found in recent fakes.

The even manner in which the painting fluoresces under ultraviolet light is taken as a sign that the surface has not been disturbed by repainting — although there could be other explanations, such as the unifying effect of a fixative varnish. They interpret a pattern of dots and patches of fluorescence as paste used for the retining which has oozed through abrasions in the linen and not been painted over, another sign of age.

Effects seen under ultraviolet light are notoriously difficult to interpret; scientists normally use the ultraviolet lamp to alert them to problems which are then analysed by other methods. Indeed, one of the Getty's most unlikely statements about the picture seems to be based on a misreading of ultraviolet effects. In a signed memorandum, Andrea Rothe informed me that "The preparatory drawing, executed in lead or silver point, is visible only under ultraviolet light". No Flemish artist is recorded as using lead or silver point for underdrawing; charcoal, carbon-based ink or paint were the normal materials. Moreover, to show under ultraviolet light, the lines must be on the surface of the paint and are more likely to be shading than underdrawing.

It is the X-ray which provides evidence of overpainting as they penetrate the surface and can reveal the brushwork below or alterations under the surface paint.

A substantial area of modern overpaint

It can be seen that the red baldachin has been painted over the corner of the barrel-vaulted ceiling at the top right. More significantly, there is an alteration to the outline of the barrel-vault itself which runs on under the baldachin. It is visible to the naked eye at the top of the picture as a strip of clean grey paint toning in with the rather grimy grey paint of the rest of the wall. That suggests that the alteration was made a long time (or a lot of grime) after the picture was originally painted, and that the baldachin which is painted over it was also a later addition.

This coincides with the view of Mme Maschelein and her colleagues at the Institut Royal in Brussels that the baldachin, curtains and other red draperies were all added by a later hand. They were judging from an X-ray photograph sent them by the Getty.

Once it is accepted that the area of red drapery has been painted over the original composition, most of the scholars' problems with the painting are resolved: the baldachin's mistaken perspective, the angel's arm draped by a curtain, the combination of a bench with bed hangings and the absence of symbolic attributes to identify the scene. The latter, one may guess, were originally to be found in the substantial area now covered over.

There is reason to believe that this is a recent alteration to the picture. Fine strands of the Virgin's hair are painted straggling over the red hangings and they are painted with lead tin yellow whose existence was only rediscovered in the 1940s.

On the basis of the evidence currently available, it looks as if the painting is by a follower of Bouts with a substantial area of modern overpaint. This has come to light as a result of Tarica's criticisms and he deserves to be taken more seriously by the Getty. A careful investigation by independent experts could reveal that more of the surface is modern, as he asserts, or even evidence of the two hands he sees at work. His challenge can no longer be ignored.



Canvas clash: Alain Tarica (left) explains the Annunciation, which he believes a fake, to the Getty Museum's Andrea Rothe

explain the picture to each other simultaneously without drawing breath. The outraged public affairs director, Philippa Calnan, asked Tarica to leave. "She bundled me out like the dirty washing", he complained subsequently.

After tempers had cooled, Rothe and his assistant took me, but not Tarica, patiently through the results of their investigations. Before discussing the salient points and the doubts they raise, the historical context of the painting should be sketched in.

The chequered history of the painting

Count Guicciardi, the Milanese envoy to the Congress of Vienna in 1815, brought back with him four early Flemish paintings on linen which were inherited by various members of his family. In 1860 Sir Charles Eastlake, then director of the London National Gallery and

one of the connoisseurs who pioneered a revival of interest in early Flemish and Italian painting, purchased one of them, The Entombment in Milan. He was shown another, The Adoration of the Magi, which he recorded in his diary as in poor condition.

The three remaining pictures were included in an exhibition at the Brera in Milan in 1872. They belonged to three different owners and the catalogue records their titles as The Annunciation, The Resurrection and The Adoration of the Magi. Then they disappeared.

When Sotheby's offered The Resurrection for sale in 1980, the rediscovery caused a stir. Such was the enthusiasm of the National Gallery that it hid more than it had ever done at auction for any painting. It was outbid by Norton Simon, the millionaire art collector, who bought it for £1.87 million for his museum in Pasadena, California.

Derek Johns was then head of Sotheby's Old Master department and in 1984, now turned dealer, he produced The Annunciation, still from an undisclosed source. He says that he has seen the third

missing painting, The Adoration, which is now in Switzerland, "but will never come on the market".

What happened to the paintings between 1872 and 1980 remains a mystery. It is believed by the art trade that, at some stage, the picture must have left Italy without an export licence. According to Italian sources they belonged at one time to Antonio Grandi, a leading Milanese art dealer who died in 1923, and passed to his heirs. His great-granddaughter, Laura Grandi, now Sotheby's representative in Milan, has never heard of the paintings belonging to her family. The family home in the fashionable heart of Milan was, she says, burnt down during the war and all her great-grandfather's archives were lost.

Grandi, however, was a close friend and collaborator of Luigi Cavenaghi, the restorer. Indeed, a sculptured portrait medallion of the two men adorns the entrance to the Brera honouring their service to the museum. Did Cavenaghi restore the paintings for Grandi? Or could he have sold them to him, for he also dabbled as a dealer? History does not relate.

Appliance of science to the rescue

The results of the tests made at the Getty have not been published and only one or two outsiders have seen documents such as the X-ray or ultraviolet photograph. The claim that the painting is in "pristine" condition is likely, however, to be fiercely argued once outside experts have had a chance to study the evidence.

The Annunciation, if genuine, would be the best preserved example in the world of a 15th-century painting in tempera on linen. The cloth was painted very thinly in a technique akin to watercolour painting. Contemporary records reveal that thousands of pictures were painted on cloth in the 15th century but less than 100 survive. In an attempt to preserve them, many have been varnished or touched up with oil paint, which has generally destroyed the surface.

of New York: "It is quite apparent that the Norton Simon and Getty pictures cannot be by the same hand... If they were smart they'd get some neutral agency to do an investigation and publish the results."

James Snyder, Bryn Mawr College, Pennsylvania: "There are some aspects of the painting that are indeed unusual (especially the veiled arm of the angel Gabriel that should be holding a sceptre). This is likely to be due to repaint or restoration in my mind."

Karel G Boon, former keeper of prints and drawings, Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam: "I have not seen the painting but there are features of the composition which seem strange." He cites the treatment of the figures, the bench beside the Virgin, the book resting on it and the draped angel's arm.

Lorne Campbell, Courtauld Institute: "There is nothing seriously wrong with the picture."

Colin Eisler, New York University: Originally enthusiastic about the painting, he now refuses to comment and may have changed his mind.

Majmir Frinta, State University of New York, Albany: "The canopy is of a type not used over a bench or throne but over a bed. Its inappropriateness puzzles me greatly."

Stephen Godard, University of Kansas, Lawrence: "It is curious how the angel's hand is disappearing. The area of red cloth seems very large. It is some kind of disjunction and confusing."

Robert Koch, Princeton University: "It is a painting of the period of Bouts which bears every indication of being his work

WHAT THE ART WORLD'S EXPERTS THINK

and is in almost pristine condition."

Barbara Lane, City University of New York: "My first reaction on seeing the painting was 'this can't be Bouts'."

Cathérine Perler-d'Ardenne, Université Libre de Bruxelles: "Most probably by a late 15th-century follower of Bouts. The technical documents show later additions, notably the baldachin and red curtains. Given the opacity of the red, it is impossible to judge what was underneath."

Leonard Stetkevich, City University

Career tips on the tarot cards

They are known as poor man's psychiatrists, but their clients are by no means poor. The majority are young professionals in their 20s and 30s, with well-paid jobs as Wall Street stockbrokers and bankers, lawyers, company chairmen, advertising executives and boutique owners.

Every lunchtime and evening these supposedly hard-nosed New York yuppies wait patiently in establishments like the Gypsy Tea Kettle in mid-Manhattan to have their fortunes told by "psychic" tarot card readers, palmists, astrologers or numerologists.

The Gypsy Tea Kettle opened in 1930; psychics served tea there, read the leaves. Today, the 10 readers confine themselves to tarot cards. Clients sit in café-style booths, facing the reader, and get 15 minutes' advice for \$7 (plus tip).

"Psychiatrists charge a basic \$75 for 45 minutes, so we are cheaper", says Mrs Joan Story, who has been in the psychic business for many years. "Clients say that I tell them much more than a psychiatrist ever did."

In the past, most customers were housewives, or those who simply came out of curiosity. "Today most are business people, and although they want to know about their personal relationships, their biggest concern is their careers", Mrs Story says. "Are they going to be promoted, get a rise, should they take the new job? They are taking their readings very seriously."

Women ask about their forthcoming marriages. "Some don't listen, and then come to me in tears. If I see that someone is critically ill, I'll advise them to see a doctor."

Mary Dungan, aged 36, a stockbroker with a large Wall Street firm, explains: "I go regularly to Joan Story to relieve my anxiety, reduce stress, and to give me a sense of control in my life."

Miss Dungan said that people of her age went to psychics for hope and stability. "We go for guidance about business decisions, to know the right moves to



make. "Psychics are more valuable than friends; they can see where you are going wrong and they give you hope for the future."

Bethany Birkett, who conducts her 15 minute readings in a restaurant and at the Toy Bar in Manhattan, was taken aback recently when a client's cards showed that he enjoyed killing people. "He was a professional mercenary, and asked me whether El Salvador was going to blow up because he thought it was a good place to do what he enjoyed doing."

A young woman who was about to be married consulted Miss Birkett. "I could see definite problems in the future, a lot of ambiguity surrounding the man. He was also there, and I read his cards while his fiancée was at the bar. I told him that I saw this ambiguity, and he leaned over and told me that he was probably going gay. He was disturbed by it, and he hadn't told the girl. I said he had better decide fast — they were supposed to get married in two months — and tell her what was happening."

Miss Birkett, who has just bought a crystal ball complete with instruction book, teaches tarot card reading at Inner Vision, a Manhattan Institute dedicated to the psychic sciences. "We have a lot of young professionals studying there in their spare time", she says. "I think the young professionals have become interested in tarot card readings and other psychic sciences — to the extent of studying it themselves — because they are more open to things going on around them today. They are well-established and don't care what other people think about them."

But there are dangers. Miss Birkett said: "There are thousands of people doing this in New York, and a lot of them are getting money under false pretences. They will tell you there is a curse on you and if you pay them they'll exercise the curse. People get frightened and pay up."

Penny Symon

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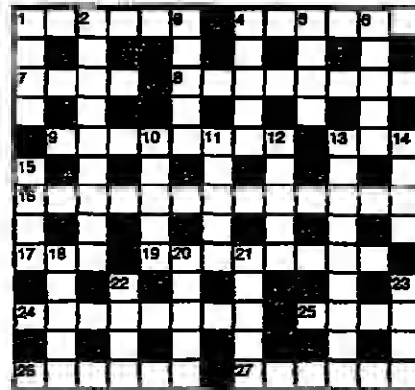
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CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 891

- ACROSS**
- 1 Headsong (6)
 - 4 Tan (5)
 - 7 Be deflated (4)
 - 8 Interim (8)
 - 9 Tactful person (8)
 - 13 Artificial hair (3)
 - 16 Burgling (13)
 - 17 Misfortune (3)
 - 19 Hotel owner (8)
 - 24 Average (8)
 - 25 Bitterness (4)
 - 26 Submit (6)
 - 27 Rudder handle (6)
- DOWN**
- 1 Trickery (4)
 - 2 Weariness (9)
 - 3 W Indian bar dance (5)
 - 4 E African master (5)
 - 5 Curse (4)
 - 6 Automaton (5)
 - 8 Bleeding worm (5)
 - 11 Deserve (5)
 - 12 Trail fishing net (5)
 - 13 British government (20)
 - 14 Fledge (4)
 - 15 Exhibit (4)
 - 18 Fat (5)
 - 20 Happen (5)
 - 21 Make effort (5)
 - 22 Intellect (4)
 - 23 Aspiration (5)



SOLUTION TO NO 890

- ACROSS:** 1 Stacks 5 Tape 8 React 9 Rebirth 11 Meninges 13 Jet 15 Follow-through 17 Cage 18 Straight 21 Embargo 22 Parks 23 Bery 24 Seethe
- DOWN:** 2 Learn 3 Cut 4 Superstitious 5 Tube 6 Parvenu 7 Prima Facie 10 Hatchet man 12 Nook 14 Aria 16 Legible 19 Girth 20 Dry 22 Pie

Tomorrow



Patterson: 100mph delivery

The bowling machines

Times Profile of the West Indian fast bowlers

FIRST PERSON

An oil pr

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FIRST PERSON

I shouted to my wife as I tipped our beautiful baby upside down and compressed her chest with my thumb, giving her little panic-stricken kisses of life

There is no earthly reason - and possibly no heavenly one either - why you should wish to read this little piece, but it could just be that you carry the key to a tragedy that rips the heart out of at least one mother in this country every day. Last night it was my wife's turn.

For me, it was just an ordinary working day ending around 7pm, the most difficult decision having been whether a previously active 78-year-old's life could usefully be prolonged by the support of a modern intensive care unit ("we won't know unless we try"). Off with the coat in the bedroom (ours is a crowded flat with no proper place for anything), a quick glance at the carry-cot, with its peaceful content of two-month-old Jessica, and then a happy meal for two in the living area discussing the events of an unremarkable start to the week.

At 7.45pm I went back to the bedroom. Jessica, asleep longer than usual after her 5.30pm feed, lay swaddled and face down: mustn't wake her (hell to pay), but it would be reassuring to see just a hint of movement from the little form. I looked closer and was seized with that icy panic that makes time stand still.

On turning her over, her perfect features were pale,

drained of their vital force. She was warm but not blue so perhaps she hadn't suffocated.

I shouted to my wife as I tipped our beautiful baby upside down and compressed her chest rhythmically with my thumb, giving her little panic-stricken kisses of life.

My wife dialled for an ambulance and then, trained nurse and conscientious mother, she produced a little suction device - a simple pair of tubes and a bottle to clear a child's airway using your mouth - but the damn thing kept falling apart.

In desperation we continued. The ambulance men were marvellous, taking the stairs four at a time and whisking the little bundle off to their vehicle in a flurry of competence and cardiac massage. On learning I was a doctor they handed me a laryngoscope and to my relief I managed to pass an endotracheal tube through Jessica's mouth and between her vocal chords to secure her airway. The race was on. For every six chest compressions by the ambulance man I gave the Ambu bag a squeeze to push air into Jessica's lungs. The traffic parted, a blue

sea seen by the light of the ambulance's omnipotent flasher: thank God people respect the narrow divide between life and death and pull over to give the former a chance. Please breathe, Jessica, please breathe.

It was two minutes before I understood why the ambulance men kept asking who the mother was, and they barely flinched to learn that I was both the doctor and the dad; none the less the ambulance - already crossing red lights and skirting bollards - seemed to go a

little faster. Crisp radio messages had alerted the paediatric team at the receiving hospital. They rushed her into the resuscitation room and, feeling like a spectator seeing through a glass darkly, I was led away from the scene of the action to a little room with welcome privacy, a cup of tea and no holds barred.

It was 20 minutes before they told me she wasn't going to make it but that they'd continue a bit longer. It was a kind gesture, but we'd felt from the outset she was dead. Everyone was very consid-

erate and courteously reticent. The young nurses, childless but intensely involved, were attentive and devoid of platitudes. The hospital chaplain was sympathetic, positive and marvellously understanding - could he have once been through this himself, as was rumoured?

The young and kindly consultant paediatrician, summoned from home and so used to this scenario, at least would be spared the tragedy of a half-survivor. My histrionic sense of being

centre stage, of wanting to enliven the long faces and show that grief could be borne with good humour, was closely followed by an intensely private sense of overwhelming misery, to be vented in remote corners, perhaps for weeks to come.

My wife joined me, brought to the hospital by an equally grief-struck neighbour whom we had asked only two days previously to be a godfather to the little baby. And then Jessica was carried in to us looking oblivious, as if she was still merely sleeping, albeit pallid from some unseen Dracula. We could have stayed there forever, the three of us: time suspended over a sleeping baby too young to know suffering and sadness, or so we hoped. It seemed the most natural thing to kiss and cuddle her. She still bore her lovely baby smell. We cried and we kissed her but she wouldn't wake up. The chaplain baptised her, and it helped: so did the genuine and totally unarmoured offer that we could see her any time we wished over the next couple of days.

The police arrived, kindly but caricatures, and went through the motions required of the law. Basic

information was recorded meticulously in longhand, then there was a brief external examination of the baby that seemed pointless: isn't the post-mortem sufficient, and how is your ordinary policeman, loyal and stout-hearted though he be, able to interpret external evidence that might indicate a battered baby when competent doctors sought this both before and after?

No matter - anything that solves the conundrum of cot death is welcome, and at least our policeman followed us home and inspected the circumstances: someone might eventually benefit. Her little carrycot still smelt of her, and there wasn't a trace of vomit on the sheets.

So now there is the paperwork and the necessary bureaucracy: the inquest after the autopsy, the funeral and the burial of so many hopes and uncertain aspirations. In a sense, grief remains a comfort, retaining the immediacy of the loved one and perhaps easing the stranglehold of the stark truth. Finally there will be just the memories of a baby girl physically unblemished who looked the soul of happiness and was almost too good to be true. We all have many blessings, but perhaps one shouldn't count them. Imogen, Jessica's three-year-old sister, summed it up an hour ago: "Don't worry Mummy, you must have another little baby. It's very precious."

Tim Williams

COT DEATHS: THE FACTS

The sudden infant death syndrome ranks after congenital abnormality as the commonest cause of death in babies between the ages of two weeks and one year. It has a peak incidence between the second and fourth months and kills about 1,200 otherwise apparently healthy British babies annually. The figures remain surprisingly constant, it affects all classes although there is a statistical relationship to poor home conditions and most often strikes in the winter months when viral infections are rampant. Doctors now recognize a near-miss cot death syndrome which is estimated to affect between two and three times the numbers who die.

The current theory is that the immature respiratory centre in the brain, which controls breathing, switches off, usually during sleep, possibly as a reaction to an infection by one of the respiratory viruses which without this fatal complication would have only caused a transitory illness. Research workers believe that there are other ways in which the respiratory centre may be affected: one possibility is laryngeal spasm induced by the inhalation of food which has been regurgitated because of an unusually lax sphincter between the stomach and gullet. Some doctors feel that an alarm system which warns parents if the baby stops breathing is helpful, but the evidence for this is disputed.

The baby's breathing can be started by stimulating a respiratory centre by shaking, or mouth to mouth resuscitation. For parents, a sudden death without time for emotional adaptation heightens the tragedy and produces the inevitable feeling of guilt of "if only variety". Parents need much comfort and support for many months to come to terms with their grief and guilt. The Foundation for the Study for Infant Deaths (4 Grosvenor Place, SW1, tel 01 235 1721), as well as contributing to research, gives parents nationwide counselling and advice. Dr Thomas Stuttford

An oil price rise to savour

It was the price tags on the bottles that brought me to an emergency stop in the basement of The Conran Shop. Did they hold liquid gold or had someone's pen had a slip of the tongue? Badia a Colibunono was the priciest at £18.50 a litre, and Pasolini the cheapest at £8.80. In between, there was Trattoria Dell'Ugo at £11.93 and Castellare for £12.30.

Good olive oil has never been given away, but what could be the difference between these and the £3.90 a litre stuff from the Italian grocer round the corner that I had been using with pleasure for the past three years?

Extra virgin was the answer. For any purpose other than the Italian olive oil business, virginity is either absent or present. It is not a qualifiable commodity. But the oil trade recognizes four ranks of virginity, descending from extra vergine via soppalim vergine and fino vergine to vergine. These are the finest oils made simply by pressing olives in the time-honoured manner.

Lesser grades, found in bottles labelled olive oil or pure olive oil, have been subjected to rectification, a battery of physical and chemical deodorizing, de-acidifying and bleaching processes which render palatable oils made from indistinguishable fruit or the pulp left from the pressing of virgin oils. These stripped oils are blended with virgin oil to put back some taste.

In technical terms, the difference between the grades is expressed in percentages of oleic acid - the less the better. In practice, of course, what people pay for is flavour and aroma. It is here that questions of quality are matters of personal taste and judgment.

What vine variety, soil, tree type, earth and weather are to olive oil. Writing of the southernmost Sicilian island of Pantelleria, one commentator observed that here "olive plants are trained into low, broad forms whose branches

THE TIMES COOK SHONA CRAWFORD POOLE



form umbrellas protected from the sun by dry walls. Here the olives share space with caper plants and the vines of Zibibbo, a type of Moscato. The oil here is exquisitely fine and perfumed, a rarity which, like the Moscato extra di Pantelleria, cannot be duplicated anywhere else."

In the same way that fine wine is for sippers not gulpers, the best extra vergine de oliva is generally used as a condiment, not a cooking medium. Now that I have made the acquaintance of Badia a Colibunono, Castellare, Trattoria Dell'Ugo and the Pasolini I concede that they are vastly more interesting than the bland oil I had been using. They are also lighter, brighter and altogether different from the sometimes rank and heavy virgin oils of Greece and Spain.

Serious oil buyers "taste" it by rubbing a few drops into their palms then sniffing the

blackened and blistered. Put the peppers in a paper or plastic bag for half an hour or so, after which time the skins will peel off easily.

Cut the peeled peppers into narrow strips, discarding the seeds and stalks. Put the strips in a shallow ovenproof dish and drizzle the oil over them. Give them a couple of turns of the pepper grinder and put the dish in a preheated, moderately hot oven (190°C/375°F, gas mark 5) for 10 to 15 minutes. The peppers should be hot and a bit floppy, but not really cooked.

Serve them alone, hot or warm, as a first course with good bread.

Extra virgin oil and garlic star in spaghetti aglio, olio e peperoncino, a dish made in Tuscany, Campania and Lazio.

- Spaghetti with oil and garlic Serves four
- 340g (12oz) spaghetti
- 4 cloves garlic
- Salt
- 1 small red pepper
- 6 tablespoons olive oil
- Freshly ground black pepper

Cook the spaghetti in plenty of boiling salted water. To be authentically Italian it should be on the toothy side of tender - *al dente*.

Crush the garlic with a pinch of salt, using the flat of a knife against a board, and chop the pepper, discarding the seeds. Heat the oil in a frying pan and add the garlic and pepper. Simmer until the garlic is transparent but not browned.

Drain the spaghetti and put it in a warm bowl. Pour the oil, garlic and red pepper over it. Season with black pepper, toss and serve at once.

If the spaghetti is ready before the sauce, take it off the heat and pour a cupful of cold water or a few ice cubes into the pan. This will stop cooking further, but keep it warm. Drain when the sauce is ready.

The old lady of convict island

Miss Carrie James lived in a sloping cottage made from the timbers and square-headed nails of an old convict bulk; it overlooked Hobart and the harbour below. She was 94 and as scrawny as a heron, her speech was rambling and she craned her head forward as she tried to concentrate.

Her eyes were fierce in their intensity and she had total recall of the past, remembering Hobart as a convict town where the freed women stood behind their gates smoking clay pipes and spitting at the few passing settlers. "They hated the migrants", she told me. "They hated everyone". I was talking to an eye-witness of one of the most shameful episodes in British colonial history.

I met Carrie James in 1961, and she provided the inspiration for around 20 years of research and a novel.

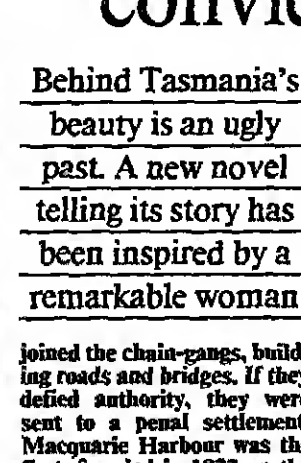
Tasmania then seemed the most tranquil place you could imagine, yet it had been one of the bloodiest spots on earth. The British killed off animals and wiped out the indigenous population. The convicts shipped out from Britain and Ireland persevered against a horrible injustice. In just five years, from 1841 to 1845, as many as 15,546 male convicts were sent there, compared with 1,605 to New South Wales.

Some 50,000 men and 10,000 women were transported to Van Diemen's Land, which as Tasmania has a present-day population of only 430,000.

One woman was sent out for stealing a piece of ribbon. No wonder her tombstone was inscribed: "Farewell old world, I've had enough of thee". Another was so poor that she lived on potatoes and ate wisps of her hair after someone told her this would prevent worms. Desperate one night, she set fire to herself and burnt to death. Hobart was a tough little town.

I knew little of this until Carrie James recalled the "mad old days". The convicts were assigned as servants or

Behind Tasmania's beauty is an ugly past. A new novel telling its story has been inspired by a remarkable woman



Carrie James: eye-witness to a shameful colonial episode

joined the chain-gangs, building roads and bridges. If they defied authority, they were sent to a penal settlement. Macquarie Harbour was the first, founded in 1822 on the wild west coast. With violent storms from the Antarctic in the winter and rain for 300 days in the year, it was so remote and impractical that it was abandoned 10 years later and replaced by Port Arthur on the opposite coast.

Carrie remembered two convicts with special affection. "There was Charles, tall man, he got subservient you know, mother wouldn't have that. If he came to our home he was treated like a gentleman. He was never flogged, he came of a good family."

The other convict was a sailor. His crime was set out in a page of notes taken down by Carrie's father, George James, carriage decorator: "Richard Stanton of Her Majesty's Navy at your service. After service of 20 months an event happened that altogether altered the course of my life's career. Her Majesty Queen Victoria paid an official visit to the Fleet." When the sailors manned the yard-arms in salute, Stanton fell onto the deck, colliding with a midshipman. For this he was sentenced to two years transportation, which meant life. On his arrival he joined a settler's family as a servant. "I was given two large baskets of ladies' underclothing to wash and iron. I remarked I would not disgrace the flag I sailed under, and danced 'Jack's the lad with a hornpipe' on top of them."

For this impertinence, he was sent to Port Arthur for 25 lashes. An average of 22 per cent of male convicts were flogged, receiving anything from 19 to 50 strokes. Stanton was one of the few to be released and Carrie saw the scars on his back: "Like a piece of leather, scored, scored, great weals, cross to cross. Oh, can't they ruin a life. Always a cane on top of the Bible, never a cuddle, never a kiss."

The ruins of Port Arthur are all the more shocking because their surroundings are beautiful. It became the third largest town in the colony, with a church, hospital, officers' bungalows, a village green and parade ground - and, of course, the

Swansdowne by Daniel Farson

Hence the large asylum nearby. Back in England I was haunted by the memory of Port Arthur and started my research, which has lingered over 20 years.

As I approached the climax to Swansdowne, I found that the end of transportation coincided with the date I had reached. Celebrations were held throughout the island to 1853 to mark the victory of the Anti-Transportation League as the Order-in-Council making Van Diemen's Land a penal colony was revoked.

The Hon Richard Dry, member for Launceston, made a speech declaring that the time had come to change the name of Van Diemen's Land - so evocative of crime and wretchedness - to the more euphonious one of Tasmania. Carrie kept the Gowers I had brought her, though they must have been brittle by the time she wrote to me, sending a pair of exorcising pink bed socks she had knitted. She is dead now, but my memory of this compassionate old lady is bright. She was the inspiration for Swansdowne.

Daniel Farson Swansdowne by Daniel Farson is published by Arrow Books, price £2.50.

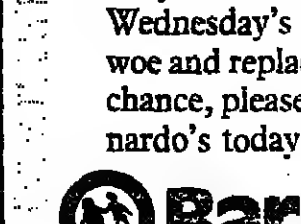
WEDNESDAY'S CHILD IS FULL OF WOE



How long does woe last if you're a handicapped or deprived child? It may be a very long time.

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Advertisement for DUX mattresses. Text includes: "Good sleep is essential to us all. And when you consider that we spend one third of our lives sleeping, you can understand why investing in a good bed is worth every penny. Like a Dux bed. Dux beds have been made by generation after generation of master craftsmen in Sweden. Their quest is single minded. A Dux bed must be made to last a lifetime. That's why they only use the finest materials inside and out." A large image of a Dux mattress is shown at the bottom.

Sheraton Hotels To our article "Emergency ward Islam" (Wednesday Page, February 19) we referred to the "appalling conditions at a former Sheraton Hotel that had been cooedmoed". We have been asked to make it clear that the hotel fell into disrepair and was condemned long after it had ceased to be under Sheraton management.

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THE TIMES DIARY

Dateline Parris

Preferring the box to the House, wimpish Tory Matthew Parris is to resign his safe Derbyshire seat to present it to the House...

Mine Host

The Shop Bill is causing much soul searching in the Church of England. While St Albans Cathedral has continued to sell knick-knacks at its gift shop on Sundays...

House room

The GLC may have broken off links with News International, but its propaganda sheet The Lobby continues to distribute the Sun's ringo card...

Revenge

Labour moderate Ben Lucas must be savouring his victory over a Militant-supported candidate in the recent election for the chairmanship of the National Organization of Labour Students...



BARRY FANTONI

'Cold? Not me. Someone always pops in from the GLC and throws some money on the fire'

Who's boss?

Neil Kinnock's chief press officer, Tricia Hewitt, is expecting a baby in August, becoming the third member of his close corps of press officers to leave to start a family...

Surfacing again

Almost a year after police arrived in St Lucia to question former HMS Conqueror officer Neranda Sethia about the missing 'Belgrano' log book, new questions are to be raised about the investigation...

Help victims—and beat crime

by John Spencer

When the women Christopher Meach had sexually abused won a total of £17,000 damages against him in the High Court, some hailed it as a landmark decision. It was really no such thing...

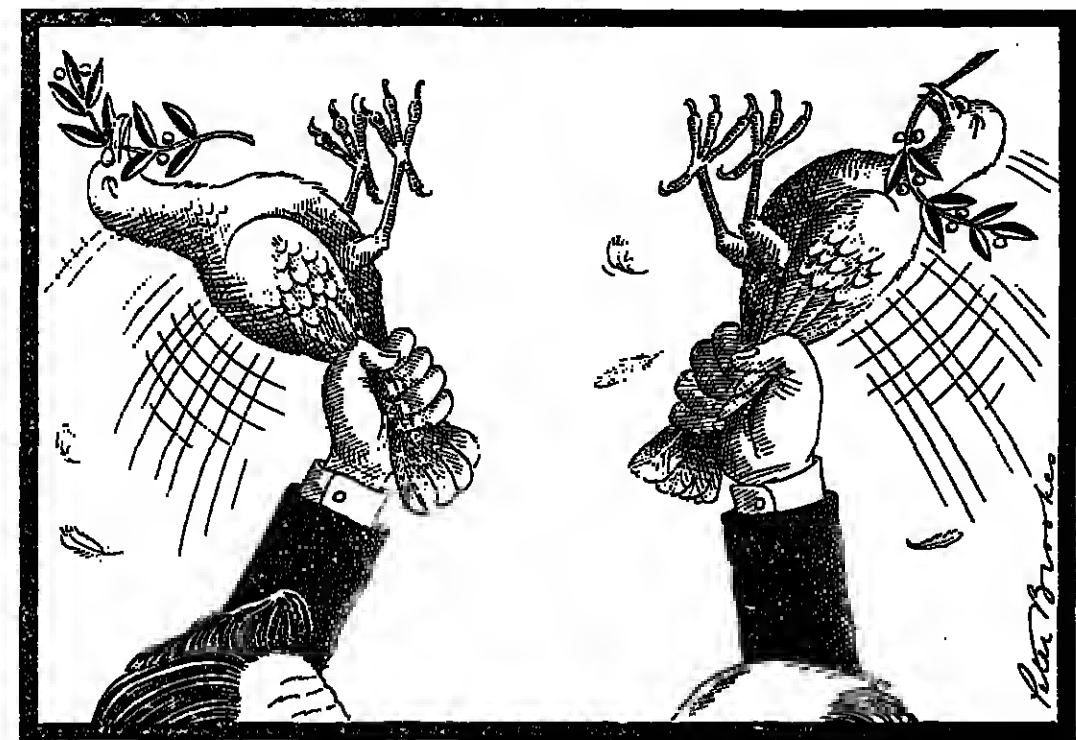
compensation orders do not work well. It is not merely that there are curious anomalies in when they are available; or that most criminals are too broke to pay anything...

the victim when a suspect has been caught. But he is not told, let alone consulted, about what offences the suspect will be tried for. Nor does he have any say in the matter...

In their recent study Victims in the Criminal Justice System, Joanna Shapland and her colleagues visited 276 people who had been robbed, battered, raped or assaulted...

Nicholas Ashford on the battle for European public opinion

As the Geneva arms talks went into recess yesterday, the United States and the Soviet Union began shaping up for a new battle to persuade European public opinion of the merits of their recent respective proposals for ending the arms race...



The author is in a row in law at Selwyn College, Cambridge.

It is always possible to detect the beginning of a new superpower peace offensive by the sudden increase in the number of invitations to attend briefings and other functions at the US and Soviet embassies...

The key role in the Soviet propaganda effort in this country has been played by Guerman Gventsadze, the articulate and persuasive number two at the Soviet embassy. His message: neither superpower could win a nuclear war or an arms race...

Take cover, they're talking peace again

to the Soviet leadership. The British and French forces are puny at present compared with the 10,000 or so nuclear warheads in the Soviet arsenal...

one better than Gorbachov's by seeking to eliminate all such missiles from Europe and Asia in three years. Under the Reagan plan both sides would agree to reduce their missile launchers in Europe to 140 each during 1987...

ments profess full support for Reagan's latest offer, there is still concern that Europe might be left militarily vulnerable if the Americans agree to withdraw their Pershing and cruise missiles in exchange for the removal of Soviet SS-20s...

Second, they are apprehensive that a "zero-zero" missile solution would weaken the transatlantic link between Western Europe and the US strategic deterrent and leave them vulnerable to the Warsaw Pact's huge superiority in conventional weapons...

Now Nigeria looks for an African answer

After an initial period of West-minister-style democracy, a succession of military coups and a protracted civil war, Nigeria could be heading for one-party rule when General Babangida's military administration restores power to the civilians in 1990...

report, but his views are nevertheless thought to reflect those of Babangida, who is trying to run Nigeria along the lines of that hypothetical village chief. Since he came to power in an army counter-coup last August, Babangida has surprised Nigerians not only by the speed of the changes he has made but also his distinctly consultative style of government...

had grown xenophobic after years of being told that "foreigners had ripped off the country". Babangida called for a national debate on whether to accept the IMF loan, and then accepted to the popular view, and refused it, again to newspaper acclaim. But he then brought in a "home-grown" austerity programme that went far beyond the IMF medicine...

geria, the chief opposition to Shagari's National Party of Nigeria (NPN). But Babangida had been able to appease the NPN's supporters in the north by making clear his intention to release Shagari while assuring the south that he would take their views into account. In the meantime the public have been prepared for Shagari's release, which is now simply a matter of time...

Andrew Phillips One solicitor who says no

The legal profession has made a monumental mess of its public relations in recent years. People now assume the worst of us. Perhaps they always have. So it would be a double irony if this public cynicism worked in favour of fusion of solicitors and barristers simply because they are against it...

backroom boys. Instructed by solicitors, who do all the laborious preparatory work, they can handle a prodigious number and variety of cases, often drawn from the length and breadth of the land. This enables them to become more adept, hence efficient, in pure law terms than any solicitor (even the specialists in the very large firms)...

After the recent publication of the "discussion proposals" of the Law Society's Contentious Business Committee, there is for the first time within the Society a focus for fusion. With Fleet Street almost unanimously in favour, the profession could find itself bounced into a shotgun marriage. The authors of this paper have done a remarkably effective public relations job. Although their proposals would undoubtedly lead to a de facto fusion, with direct access by members of the public to what remained of the Bar, they have been sold to the public as no more than "a possible programme for reform"...

Fusion was, of course, one of the main issues considered by the Benson Royal Commission on Legal Services, which reported in 1979. It concluded firmly "that it is in the public interest for the legal profession to be organized, as at present, in two branches". On the critical question of expense, having done its elaborate best to find and weigh the data, the Benson inquiry was unable to come to any firm conclusion. But what the majority of solicitors—myself included—will tell you is that using the Bar invariably saves their clients money. Barristers are, to put it simply, more cost effective. This is partly a result of their having no direct contact with the public and its money. Thus they can function on comparatively modest overheads—perhaps one clerk and a secretary to five or six busy barristers, with low equipment costs...

By denying general practice and its clients equality of access to a thriving "reserved" Bar, the smaller firms (in which eight out of 10 solicitors still work) would no longer be able adequately to serve the complete range of clientele, such as the larger local employers. General practice would eventually be stripped of its more challenging work. That would drift to the handful of expanding firms in the larger centres with sufficient work to support the required expert staff. That in turn would reinforce the existing fashion in favour of the "big boys", further downgrading general practice. The spiral of disadvantage would continue because recruiting young solicitors of the highest calibre to general practice would become an increasingly lost cause. Only those among the brightest who realized the virtues of the alternatives or had a clear sense of social obligation would eschew the lush City pastures. In an age when the parlous effects of centralization are there for all to see, with the ablest people in all walks of life being inexorably leached out of our smaller or less favoured communities, the importance of retaining there a fair share of the best professional legal talent cannot be over-estimated. Such men and women are focal members of their communities for more than just their legal activities, as with general medical practitioners. As regards integrity, the formal relationship between solicitors and barristers undoubtedly has a godsend tendency to strike the highest common denominator between them. The solicitor in general practice is already pincered by plummeting conveyancing income and a barebones legal aid scheme. Yet his viability is of critical public importance because he carries the burden of servicing the growing legal needs of the whole community. Fuse at your peril. The author is a solicitor in the City.

moreover... Miles Kington Addresses with dressing

One of the strangest human impulses I know is the desire to have a long address. It starts in school days with the urge to write in your books and the fact that you are John Smith, Upper V, Gangrene School, Gangrene, Derbyshire, England, Britain, Europe, Earth, The Universe. When you discover that you are not the first schoolchild to think of this joke, in fact about the four billionth, you give it up and you forget all about it. You might well think, if you ever think about it at all, that the habit never comes back. But it does. You go to college, you graduate in chemistry, you join a pharmaceutical firm called Gangrene Inc and pretty soon you find yourself working at their HQ at Outer Wall, EC1. You might expect that your address would then be John Smith, 155 Outer Wall, EC1. But it isn't, is it? What it is is this: John Smith, Assistant Manager, Sedatives Division, Gangrene Inc, 5th Floor, Gangrene House, 155 Outer Wall, EC1. Now, this is nothing to do with the ambition of John Smith to have a long address. It is all to do with the ambition of the pharmaceutical boss, Lord Gangrene, to have an imposing address, and we haven't put on the post code or the number of the room. There is no need for the address to include Gangrene Inc (it is the only firm in the building) or Assistant Manager (everyone in Sedatives knows who John Smith is) or Gangrene House, which is just a fancy name given to the nondescript office block at 155 Outer Wall. But it all looks very imposing. It is as much as Lord Gangrene can do not to add, England, Europe, Earth. At night Smith goes home to a very simple address. It is 155, Raglan Road, London W11 - the sort of address any postman could find, being as it is between 153 and 157 Raglan Road. But it is not the address that John Smith uses when he writes letters. The address he writes from is: John Smith, "Oakview", 155 Raglan Road, Notting Hill, London W11. By the standards of Gangrene Inc, this is quite simple stuff, but it is still fairly impressive to get five lines out of a three-line address. It doesn't make it any easier for the postman, no extra information is contained, only packaging. In fact, it sometimes makes it harder, because when people write back to John Smith they tend to include "Oakview" and leave out the number 155, and Raglan Road is a long road to find "Oakview". Meanwhile, Lord Gangrene is going home to his house in the country, Gangrene Towers. It is a big house, with big grounds, occupying quite a pocket in Oxfordshire. Any letter addressed to Lord Gangrene, Gangrene Towers, Oxfordshire, will reach him. On the whole, however, he would rather you wrote to: Lord Gangrene, Gangrene Towers, Little Gangrene, Nr Gangrene Magna, Old Gangrene, Banbury, Oxon. And perhaps you would like to write to him, especially if you feel that this long address business is getting out of hand. Not to his country house necessarily; drop a note to his London flat, and tell him so. His London flat, is at 2 Cadogan Drive, SW3. However, if you should wish to use the full address, which he prefers, it is: Lord Gangrene, Apartment 12a, Cadogan Court, 2 Cadogan Drive, Port Street, Knightsbridge, London SW3. (This appeal has been issued by the League of Postmen and Injured Correspondents Against Long and Stupidly Complicated Addresses. For more information, write to The Times, London.)

Andrew Jaspan

LA CRÉME DE LA CRÉME

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Today's fiercely competitive recruitment business client loyalty cannot be bought, it has to be earned. At Senior Secretaries, our list of clients has endured over the years to become a byword for continuity in a business marked by change and shifting relationships.

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Senior Secretaries
WEST END • CITY • KNIGHTSBRIDGE • BRUSSELS

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A rare opportunity to utilise your administrative and organisational skills as the right hand to a top commercial lawyer who is in the process of setting up a completely new planning department. Your traditional audio and typing skills together with a legalistic background will act as the cornerstone in establishing the foundation of success in this venture. Age mid 20s+.
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Circa £11,000
As PA/Secretary to the Managing Director of Investment in a top merchant bank in ECA, you will be working with a man who recognises the importance of first class support. This is a new position and will demand professionalism and the ability to liaise with leading City figures, arranging extensive business and social engagements. Excellent presentation and skills of 100/60 will be regarded with a competitive package, including immediate mortgage subsidy. Age 25/35.
Telephone 01-606 1611

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MAKE YOURSELF FASHIONABLE
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The Fashion Director of a leading West End store is seeking a Personal Assistant who has confidence, maturity and a sense of style. You will be involved in fashion shows, helping the models and liaising with the designers. This is a varied and rewarding position if you are aged 24+. Skills 90/60. Size 10/12.
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Involvement is the key word for this exciting position working in a small PR/marketing consultancy in E1. You will be part of a young, dynamic team who are responsible for promoting the Docklands area. Enthusiasm, initiative and a smart presentation will be essential when dealing with a wide variety of clients. Accurate s/f, typing and knowledge of WP are required. Age 21/27.
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Diplomatic, integrity and sound educational background are needed for the unique opportunity. You will work for two top international management consultants who connect at the very highest defence levels. If you have outgoing your first secretarial post and have fast, accurate typing, together with the ability to take on board all the diverse responsibilities for arranging seminars, presentations and itineraries - call us now. Age 21+. Salary £9,500.
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THE CITY NEEDS YOU TEMPORARILY!
If you have good secretarial skills and WP/PC experience on Wang, IBM PC and Lotus 123, IBM 586, 486, 386, 286, 2010, ETV 300 ET 351, Digital Wordstar, Wordperfect 3.0, 4.0 and 5.0 we have temporary work for you. Top rates for top assignments.
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£11,000 W1
A large international, well established company is looking for a PA/Secretary for their Chairman who travels out of London every week. Excellent telephone manner, diplomacy and self motivation are essential and a knowledge of London helpful. Prestige own office. Skills 100/60 and Wang experience.
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Senior Secretaries

CAN YOU DEAL WITH TOP PEOPLE?
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The Chairman and Chief Executive of an international Retail and Manufacturing group needs a PA with director level experience and a strong commercial background. As well as immaculate secretarial skills (100/60) you will have confidence, poise and a sense of humour to enable you to deal effectively with eminent people. This is a demanding role for which total commitment and a flexible attitude to working hours are pre-requisites. A car driver and non-smoker is preferred. Age 25-35.
Telephone 01-499 0092

Senior Secretaries

ORGANISER
£11,000
Be our own boss in this prestigious City office. Organise a top manager's time, liaise with senior executives, arrange lunches, meetings etc. If you have excellent organisational skills and a good working knowledge of the City, we will be pleased to consider you. Salary £11,000 per year, plus benefits.
CITY: 01-481 2345
WEST END: 01-938 2188

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INTERNATIONAL
£10,500+
Large international company seeking an energetic PA to assist the Director of Personnel. Good s/f/typing skills required plus experience in organising international meetings and events. Must be confident and able to manage deadlines in the fast moving banking sector.
CITY: 01-481 2345
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MARKETING
£10,000
The large corporate company looking for an energetic PA to assist the Director of Advertising & Marketing. Lots of travel opportunities, organising international meetings and events. Must be confident and able to manage deadlines in the fast moving banking sector.
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PROGRESSION
£9,500
Career progression is the byword in this young expanding consumer CO. They now seek an experienced Secretary with excellent s/f/typing skills. You must be confident and able to manage deadlines in the fast moving banking sector.
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£9,000+
Good progress? Bright person? Looking for a real challenge? We have an exciting opportunity for an energetic PA to assist the Advertising Manager. Support opportunities for progression and a chance to travel.
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£12,000
The MD of a Management and Security Consultancy based W1 is seeking a highly motivated and self-motivated PA. This is an exceptional opportunity to work in a dynamic and exciting environment. You must be energetic with strong organisational skills and capable of some self-direction. Strong typing and shorthand skills are essential. Salary £12,000 per year plus benefits.
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DESIGN FOR LEISURE
£9,500
An exciting opportunity for a secretary with enthusiasm and personality to join this award winning architect/design company who specialise in the leisure industry both in the UK and internationally. In this fast moving environment you will be meeting deadlines and seeing individual projects through to completion. Constant telephone and client liaison. PA duties plus secretarial back-up and good skills (100/60) essential.
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PA TO MD
WOKING
£10,000
Who wants the MD of a top international company to be a secretary? You will be! This is a unique opportunity to work in a dynamic and exciting environment. You must be energetic with strong organisational skills and capable of some self-direction. Strong typing and shorthand skills are essential. Salary £10,000 per year plus benefits.
CITY: 01-481 2345
WEST END: 01-938 2188

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ROOM AT THE TOP...
An exciting opportunity for a secretary to work in the Chairman's office of an international public company in Knightsbridge. Discretion, initiative and a sense of humour are essential. You will be working with a man who recognises the importance of first class support. This is a new position and will demand professionalism and the ability to liaise with leading City figures, arranging extensive business and social engagements. Excellent presentation and skills of 100/60 will be regarded with a competitive package, including immediate mortgage subsidy. Age 25/35.
Telephone 01-606 1611

Senior Secretaries

KENSINGTON ARCHITECTS PA
SECRETARY
A senior partner in a practice is looking for someone who has a good sense of humour and is happy to work with. Must have good s/f/typing skills, ability to organise meetings, get involved in team working and a good knowledge of the City. Salary £10,000 per year plus benefits.
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LEONARD GROUSE ASSOCIATES LTD
125 Westminster Bridge Rd, London SE1 7HR
The Managing Director of this successful firm and former Head of a major public company is looking for a secretary to assist him in his day to day work. You will be working with a man who recognises the importance of first class support. This is a new position and will demand professionalism and the ability to liaise with leading City figures, arranging extensive business and social engagements. Excellent presentation and skills of 100/60 will be regarded with a competitive package, including immediate mortgage subsidy. Age 25/35.
Telephone 01-606 1611

Senior Secretaries

OFFICE MANAGER
£12,000
A leading international company is looking for an energetic and self-motivated Office Manager. You will be responsible for the day to day running of the office, ensuring that all administrative tasks are completed efficiently and effectively. You must have excellent organisational skills and be able to manage a team of staff. Salary £12,000 per year plus benefits.
CITY: 01-481 2345
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Studio - Sales/Liaison
An exciting opportunity for a secretary to work in the Studio of an international public company. You will be responsible for the day to day running of the studio, ensuring that all administrative tasks are completed efficiently and effectively. You must have excellent organisational skills and be able to manage a team of staff. Salary £10,000 per year plus benefits.
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TELEVISION
WORLD £10,000
An exciting opportunity for a secretary to work in the Television World of an international public company. You will be responsible for the day to day running of the television world, ensuring that all administrative tasks are completed efficiently and effectively. You must have excellent organisational skills and be able to manage a team of staff. Salary £10,000 per year plus benefits.
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MAGAZINE WORLD
£10,000 NEG
An exciting opportunity for a secretary to work in the Magazine World of an international public company. You will be responsible for the day to day running of the magazine world, ensuring that all administrative tasks are completed efficiently and effectively. You must have excellent organisational skills and be able to manage a team of staff. Salary £10,000 per year plus benefits.
CITY: 01-481 2345
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PA/OFFICE MANAGER
For small busy publishing firm: must have at least three years experience and good organisational abilities. Salary in the range of £8,500-£10,500.
Write with CV to: Margaret Calman, John Calman & King, 21 Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3BN.

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A group of Professional Medical Secretaries located at The Royal College of Surgeons require two Secretary/Administrators to be responsible for the day to day running of their affairs. In addition to normal secretarial duties, the post includes the taking of minutes and their transcription, simple book keeping and subscription management. Experience with an IBM Computer/Word Processor using Multimate an advantage. Applicants must have experience in all aspects of office administration and be able to work on their own initiative. Salary in Whiteley scale 4 £8,885 - £9,272 according to experience plus London weighting of £1,000. Applications including a full CV to The Honorary Secretary, RACS Royal College of Surgeons, Lincoln Inn Fields, London, WC2A 3PN

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Salary £9,000
Ring 01-351 2385

Senior Secretaries

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A partner in a successful business requires an experienced secretary to assist in the day to day running of the business. You will be responsible for the day to day running of the business, ensuring that all administrative tasks are completed efficiently and effectively. You must have excellent organisational skills and be able to manage a team of staff. Salary £10,000 per year plus benefits.
CITY: 01-481 2345
WEST END: 01-938 2188

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PA/SECRETARY to partner LINCOLNS INN
Solicitor requires PA/secretary to help in very interesting and varied law practice involving international companies, and historic houses and art collections. Ability to type in French would be useful. Friendly firm, in beautiful offices overlooking quiet square. Top salary for the right applicant. G S Brown, 10 New Square, Lincoln's Inn, London WC2A 3QG. 01-242 6141.

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£9,500
Capable Administrator/PA is required by Financial Director of City shipping firm. Your excellent secretarial skills and organisational abilities will be rewarded with the opportunity to take on an office manager's role in this very friendly but professional company. Age 25-28 with skills of 90/50 and at least 1 year's experience.

Senior Secretaries

ROOM AT THE TOP...
An exciting opportunity for a secretary to work in the Chairman's office of an international public company. You will be responsible for the day to day running of the Chairman's office, ensuring that all administrative tasks are completed efficiently and effectively. You must have excellent organisational skills and be able to manage a team of staff. Salary £10,000 per year plus benefits.
CITY: 01-481 2345
WEST END: 01-938 2188

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KENSINGTON ARCHITECTS PA
SECRETARY
A senior partner in a practice is looking for someone who has a good sense of humour and is happy to work with. Must have good s/f/typing skills, ability to organise meetings, get involved in team working and a good knowledge of the City. Salary £10,000 per year plus benefits.
CITY: 01-481 2345
WEST END: 01-938 2188

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SECRETARY
For Medical Agency
Secretary aged 20-30 required for W1 medical agency. Applicant must have excellent typing skills and be able to handle a high volume of correspondence. Salary £7,500-£8,500 negotiable plus LV's.
Please telephone: Mary Saunders on 01-831 8107

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P.A. to Managing Director
of financial institution required to deal with all aspects of administration of finance. Must have BA degree or equivalent in commercial banking with at least 3 years commercial experience. Fluent Arabic essential - drivers licence also necessary.
Please reply with CV to: BOX C55, C/ The Times, PO Box 484, Virginia Street, London E1.

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FISONS^{50%} UP.

Fisons preliminary results for 1985 show record pre-tax profits of £72.3 million, up 50% on 1984. This represents the fifth successive year of major achievement. During the period profits have grown from £3.8 million in 1980 to their current high.

The growth in profits was accompanied by continued improvement in quality of earnings. Return on capital employed at 23.9% was up on 1984, whilst earnings per share rose from 18.8p to 24.3p.

From a market capitalization of £41 million in 1981, Fisons is now valued at over £1 billion. Given the strength of the growth in Group profits, the Board is recommending a final dividend of 3.34p net per ordinary share, making 5.5p net for the full year: a 22% increase on 1984.

Fisons Formula for Success.

These excellent results reflect careful long-term planning and rigorous follow-through. At the beginning of the decade, Fisons management team implemented a corporate strategy which has restructured and refocused the Company.

This strategy was based on the following criteria.

1. To operate only in inherently attractive industries with a long-term growth and profit potential.
2. To operate only in industries where Fisons would be a highly effective competitor.
3. To establish a high quality and well motivated management team to ensure efficient implementation.

The success of our strategy is evident from the record results produced by all three of our Divisions, each of which has achieved an all-time high in both sales and profits.

Pharmaceutical Division.

The Pharmaceutical Division has

maintained its position as the leading earner in the Group with sales of £220.8 million (up from £198.5 million in 1984) and a record profit of £39 million, which represents a 25% increase.

The Division's performance in North America is particularly impressive: sales increasing by over 40%.

Applications for the registration of nedocromil sodium were made in a number of European countries; whilst it is premature to make predictions of success until regulatory approvals are obtained, the clinical trials of this product look most encouraging.

Scientific Equipment.

The Scientific Equipment Division is now contributing more than ever to Group performance. Both sales at £358.2 million and profits at £19.2 million are records.

Over the past 5 years Fisons has been the fastest growing major supplier of scientific laboratory equipment in the world.

Horticulture Division.

Fisons horticultural activities have returned profits of £8.7 million in 1985, 50% higher than in 1984, on a 7% increase in sales.

This strong performance can be attributed to both the UK and the North American market, where our overall development continues to be impressive.

Major International Group.

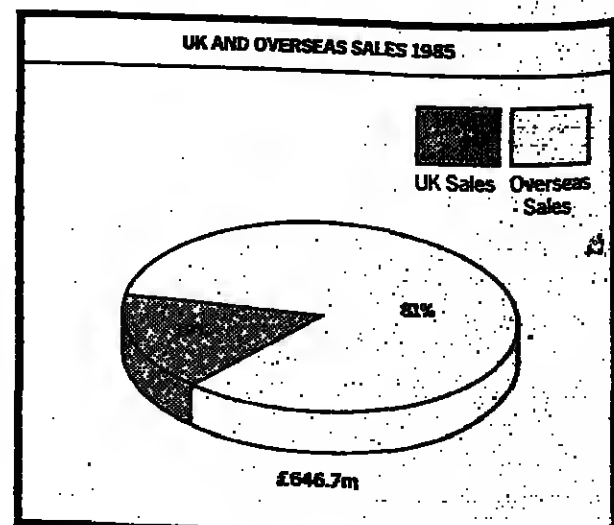
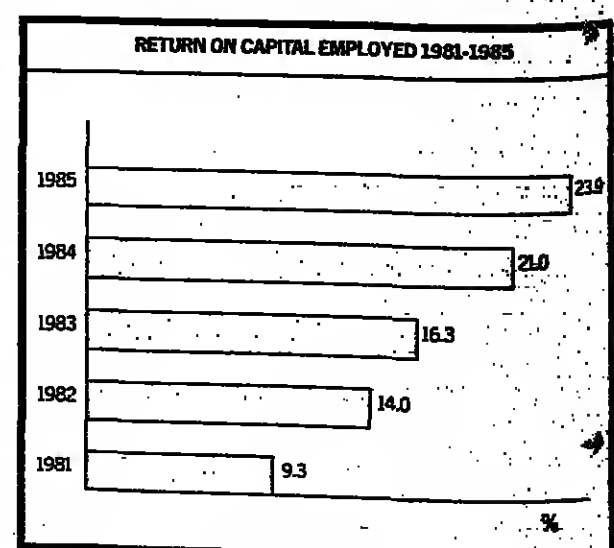
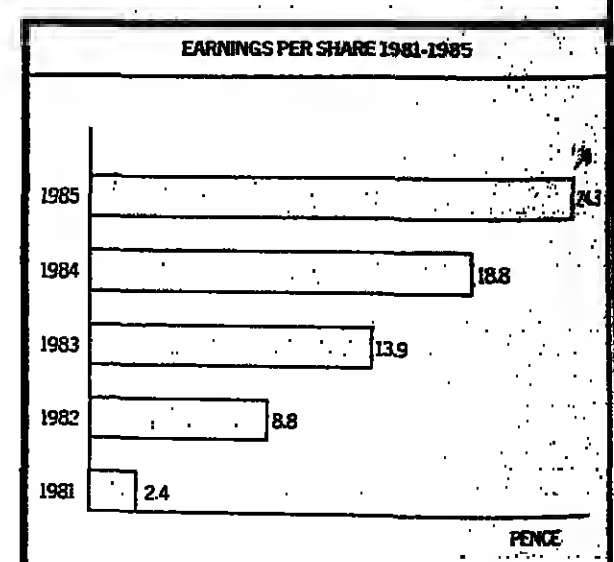
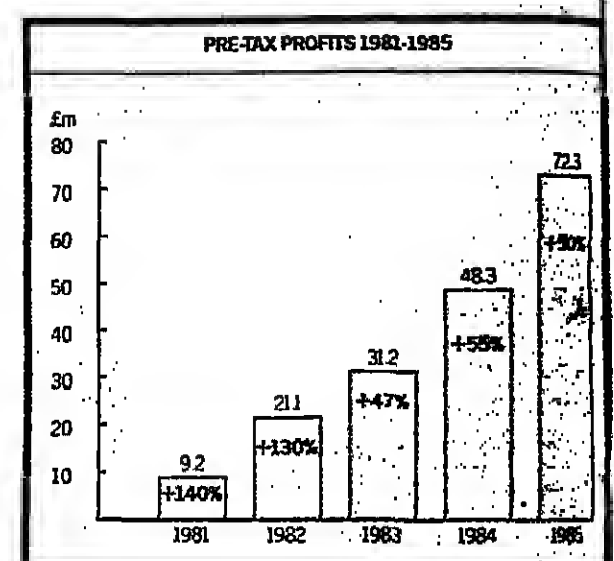
Throughout the 1980's the growth of each of our three divisions has been backed by capital investment and augmented by selective acquisitions around the world.

Fisons is now established as a major international company, with over 80% of sales made overseas.

The Future.

It is Fisons intention to maintain its highly successful strategy in the second half of this decade.

From a sound business base we can now look to the future with even greater confidence than ever.



FISONS

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1281.3 (+14.8) FT-SE 100 1548.9 (+14.0) USM (Datastream) 175.13 (-0.12) THE POUND 1.4615 (+0.0210) W German mark 3.2182 (+0.0210) Trade-weighted 73.3 (+0.8)

Beer output down 6%

Beer production, which last year declined only marginally, dropped 6.2 per cent in January compared with the same month last year, said the Brewers' Society. High stocks in the trade at the end of December would have accounted for only some of the January decrease, the Society admitted.

467 millionaires

The Unlisted Securities Markets created 467 cash and paper millionaires in its first five years, according to Touche Ross, the accountants.

Fisons jumps

Fisons, the pharmaceutical, horticulture and scientific equipment company, lifted pretax profits from £48.3 million to £72.3 million in 1985. Turnover was up from £553 million to £647 million and the final dividend is raised from 2.7p to 3.3p.

Hawley up

Hawley Group lifted profits from £28.5 million to £33 million before tax in the year to December 31 and has raised the dividend from 3.4 cents to 4.6 cents. Tempus, page 19.

SE members

The Stock Exchange Council has announced that applications from Merrill Lynch Ltd, Merrill Lynch Equities Ltd and Nomura International Ltd to become corporate members of the exchange have been approved.

BT all-clear

British Telecom expects to complete its acquisition of 31 per cent of the shares in the Miel Corporation within the next few days. This follows clearance by regulatory bodies.

BR grant

The British Rail Property Board has approved the grant of an exclusive arrangement to the Greycoat Group under which a joint planning application will be submitted shortly to Westminster City Council concerning proposals for an important urban renewal and redevelopment scheme in the Charing Cross area.

USM placing

Grievson, Grant is arranging the placing on the Unlisted Securities Market of 850,000 ordinary shares in BPP Holdings at 160p each. BPP publishes study texts for accountancy and other professional examinations.

Bid cleared

The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry has decided not to refer to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission the proposed merger between McKee Brothers and Newman-Tonks Group.

Hanley sold

Instock Johnson's US subsidiary, Gicngery Corp, has acquired the assets of the specialist brick manufacturer Hanley Brick Inc for \$5.16 million (£3.5 million) in cash.

Capel deal

The Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corp said it has acquired for an undisclosed price the 70.1 per cent of James Capel and Co, the stockbroker, it did not own.

Share success

Applications for shares in Jarvis Porter Group closed within a minute yesterday, heavily oversubscribed.

Record year for leasing

Leasing of industrial and commercial assets like plant, equipment, buildings, vehicles and aircraft increased by 43 per cent last year to a record £5,757 million as companies sought to beat taxation changes. Overall investment last year grew by 13 per cent. A new assessment of performance in 1985 compared with that of 1984 by the 73 members of the Equipment Leasing Association suggested that acceleration of investment by companies in advance of the withdrawal of first-year capital allowances was only one factor behind the expansion. But Mr David Beaver,

NatWest surprises with 20 per cent profits rise

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

National Westminster Bank yesterday announced better than expected results for 1985, reflecting an improvement in profits in the second half and a strong performance in domestic British banking operations. The bank also benefited from an adjustment in its provisions against bad debt which lowered its tax charge.

NatWest reported pretax profits of £804 million compared with £671 million the previous year, an increase of 20 per cent. Most of the profits came from British banking which improved by 30 per cent to £526 million. International banking operations contributed £181 million, an increase of £10 million. The final dividend increased by 10.2 per cent to 28.2p.

The results were well above stock market expectations and bank shares, which did not enjoy the price increase which usually takes place before the bank reporting season, raced ahead. NatWest shares rose 30p from 709p before settling at 734p. The other clearing banks' shares rose between



Lord Boardman: "horrified" at possibility of profits tax view of the likelihood of loans being repaid.

17p and 25p during the day. NatWest is the second bank to report good profits. Lloyds reported pretax profits of £561 million last week. Midland's results are due today and Barclays on Thursday. Lord Boardman, the chairman of NatWest, said he viewed with horror the possibility of a tax on bank profits in the Budget, but that if a tax was imposed it should cover other financial services institutions and not just banks.

Commenting on the results, Mr Philip Wilkinson, group chief executive, said they gave a strong platform for progress. He added that the outlook for 1986 was good, with the prospect of lower interest rates and inflation and the beneficial effect of lower oil prices.

£110m bid for rival by Norton

By Jeremy Warner, Business Correspondent

The wave of takeover bids in the City continued yesterday when Norton Opax launched an ambitious £110 million offer for its bigger security printing rival, McCorquodale. The bid drew a swift rejection from McCorquodale which is more than twice as large as Norton Opax in terms of stock market value.

There was intense speculation that there would be a counter-bid from J Bibby, the South African-controlled agricultural produce group. McCorquodale shares leapt 20p to 230p before settling at 220p - still 8p clear of the value of Norton's bid.

McCorquodale's advisers will be seeking a Stock Exchange inquiry into dealings in the company's shares before yesterday's announcement. They have risen substantially since The Times first reported the possibility of a hostile bid from Norton Opax last week.

Mr Richard Hanwell, Norton's chief executive, said that rationalization in the printing industry was so rapid at present that the company could not miss the opportunity of making substantial acquisitions.

He said there was enormous potential for improving McCorquodale's profit margins, claiming that his own company's margins in cheque printing were 4 per cent higher than McCorquodale's. In lottery ticket printing, margins were 14 per cent higher, and in cartons, Norton achieved 18 per cent more profit on sales than McCorquodale.

Mr Hanwell thought it "unlikely" that the takeover proposal would be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission despite the fact that the combined group would have more than 40 per cent of the British cheque printing market.

Norton, which has built up a 2.1 per cent stake in McCorquodale, is offering 24 of its shares and 7 new Norton Opax redeemable convertible preference shares for every 20 McCorquodale shares. Samuel Montagu, the merchant bank, has underwritten a cash alternative offer worth 19p for each McCorquodale share.

Mr John Wood, McCorquodale's chief executive, condemned the offer as "cheeky and totally inadequate". Mr Hanwell poured scorn on McCorquodale's recent profit performance. His own company was, on the other hand, forecasting pretax profits in the year to the end of this month of £5 million against £2.2 million last time.

Dollar hit by dip in US economy

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Selling pressure in the foreign exchange markets shifted dramatically from the pound to the dollar yesterday, on further evidence of an economic slowdown in the United States and an unexpected rise last month in Britain's gold and foreign currency reserves.

The announcement of a 0.6 per cent drop in the American index of leading indicators in January, and a fall in yields in the US bond market to their lowest for more than eight years, produced heavy selling of the dollar yesterday. Against the mark, the dollar fell below the key DM2.20 level and the yen/dollar rate dropped below 179.

The pound was a major beneficiary of the dollar's weakness, initially rising nearly 2 cents to \$1.46 and later gaining further ground on publication of figures for Britain's gold and foreign currency reserves to close at \$1.4615. The pound ended at 3.2233 against the mark. The reserves figures, released by the Treasury, showed an underlying rise in reserves of \$112 million (£77 million) last month, following an increase of \$132 million in January. Both advances confounded market expectations.

However, unlike in January, when the reserves were distorted by a large European Economic Community budget abatement, there were no special factors in the February figures, officials said. The reserves rose by an actual \$250 million from \$15.56 billion at the end of

Tate buys into Berisford

By Our Business Correspondent

Speculation is growing that Tate & Lyle may be about to intervene in the fast-moving battle for control of S & W Berisford, the commodity trading and sugar refining group.

Stock market sources said that the Mr Cube sugar and foods company had picked up a stake of at least 2 per cent in Berisford, which has already attracted the attentions of Hilldown Holdings, the British foods group, and Ferruzzi, an Italian agricultural produce combine.

Tate & Lyle confirmed it was interested in parts, if not all, of Berisford's business but thought that monopoly problems might prohibit a full-scale bid.

Tate & Lyle has about 40 per cent of the domestic market for sugar while Berisford has 50 per cent through British Sugar. Mr James Kerr Muir, Tate's finance director, said that most of the price competition in the British market came from imported sugar.

He also said Tate & Lyle and British Sugar combined would still have less of the total European market in sugar than Ferruzzi, which is the Berisford board's favoured bidder.

Banks worried by Mexico's sudden hard line on debt

Financial observers say Mexico has thrown the gauntlet before the big banks, implicitly telling them a debt default or a unilateral limitation on payments in the manner of Peru is on the cards if they do not significantly soften their repayment terms.

Bankers admit they are caught in an extremely difficult position. If they ignore Mexico's pleas, which have become increasingly urgent as political dissatisfaction at home has grown, they know a default would have disastrous consequences for the world financial system. But if the banks do allow Mexico preferential payment terms they fear that Latin America's other big debtors will insist on similar treatment, putting them in the unaccustomed position of making very large "sacrifices", severely curtailing their operations in their own countries.

International banks are facing a difficult decision after Mexico made it clear that it can no longer shoulder its \$97 billion debt alone. Mexican Treasury officials will be negotiating with the big international banks in the coming weeks - Mexico owes British banks an estimated \$13 billion - and their bargaining position is expected to be aggressive following guidelines set by President Miguel de la Madrid. Stopping short of announcing the default many had expected, the President declared it was unjust and impossible for Mexico to pay alone the price of the banks' lending spree of recent years. "Our creditors must now make sacrifices and efforts equivalent, at least, to those of the Mexican people," he said. Monday's government statement said Mexico's aim was to find a lasting solution to the problem of the Mexican debt.

sovereign borrowers of more than 1 per cent of its loan book. There was, however, substantial provision against exposures to the shipping industry which was going through a difficult time. The strongest performance came from British banking operations. A poor first half performance caused by the adverse effect of high interest rates on the bank's fixed rate loans, was corrected in the second half. Mortgage lending contributed £44 million to profits. NatWest lost 60,000 current accounts last year to banks offering free in-credit banking, but won back 30,000 accounts in the six weeks since it introduced free banking. NatWest yesterday imposed a 50p charge on all cheques cashed by Lloyds Bank customers in its branches. Lloyds responded by imposing a similar charge on all cheques cashed by NatWest customers. A NatWest spokesman said the charge was imposed because the lack of charges was costing the bank more than it was costing Lloyds.

Mr Charles Green, the general manager of finance control, said that sovereign risk provisions qualify for tax relief if they are treated as specific. Tax credits for the provision transfer were taken immediately and helped to reduce NatWest's tax charge by £23 million to £354 million. Mr Green added that the bank had no exposure to

Wolseley in £109m takeover

By Cliff Feltham

Wolseley-Hughes, the central heating and plumbing equipment group, has agreed after months of talks to pay £109 million for Grovewood Securities, the industrial conglomerate arm of BAT.

It is Wolseley-Hughes's biggest deal, and will dramatically increase the size of its business. The Grovewood operation includes a chain of builders' merchants, a plastics manufacturer, suppliers of electrical components and spare parts for tractors, a technical consultancy and computer software house.

But Wolseley-Hughes is not buying one of Grovewood's best-known assets - the Brands Hatch racing circuit. BAT, which acquired Grovewood as part of its £970 million takeover of Eagle Star in 1983, says it is still considering offers for this.

The health care side and certain property interests in Grovewood are also being hived off elsewhere for around £24 million. Wolseley-Hughes is financing the acquisition with a one-for-three rights issue at 42p a share. In the stock market the shares, after falling before the announcement, closed 12p ahead at 58p.

At the same time Wolseley-Hughes announced half year profits up by 27 per cent to almost £7 million, and declared a dividend of 3.5p. The Grovewood business is buying turned in trading profits last year of £8.5 million on turnover of over £195 million. The Ray and Harris chain of builders' merchants will give Wolseley-Hughes about 225 outlets in Britain.

Coloroll makes £10m bid

Coloroll, the wallpaper and home furnishings group, yesterday launched a £10.9 million bid for Staffordshire Potteries in which it has built an 8.9 per cent stake. The companies had been holding merger talks until Staffordshire suddenly broke them off.

Barham deal

Barham Group, the media services company, is paying £2.4 million for Benson Bacon Associates, which runs industrial management courses.

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Is Goldsmith Argyll's secret weapon?

So far shareholders and interested bystanders have been permitted to see only the surface manoeuvres of Argyll in a masterful campaign against Guinness for control of Distillers. It is a campaign which Argyll has to win: the costs to which it is already committed - in the region of half a year's profits - would turn defeat into a rout. But Argyll, with a cash offer of 600p against Guinness's cash offer of 630.3p, cannot win unless Sir Gordon Borrie, the Director General of Fair Trading, succeeds a second time in having the Guinness bid referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

To that end, Argyll will again lean heavily on the insights, personal relationships and persuasive powers of Alex Fletcher, until recently a junior minister at the Department of Trade and Industry and now an adviser to James Gulliver, at a fee, it is rumoured, too high for Tiny Rowland for whom any weapon against the DTI is normally beyond price.

The judgement in the case brought by Argyll against the Government, and in particular against Sir Godfrey Lequesne, chairman of the Monopolies Commission, claiming that Guinness's first bid for Distillers should not have been released by the Commission, may have some bearing. So, perhaps, might the publicity surrounding the rival bids, which at this stage is much more favourable to the Argyll cause and the benign Borrie than to Guinness, which is

also suffering from the battering taken by Morgan Grenfell, Guinness's merchant bankers.

Morgan through its successes and inventiveness has become too big a target for anyone to miss. Currently it is being portrayed as tilting at the Bank of England because it has arranged with a consortium of banks to take over the £111 million worth of Distillers shares it had acquired on Guinness's behalf, precisely to allay the Bank's qualms about Morgans having such a weight on its own balance sheet. Samuel Montagu, merchant bankers acting for Argyll in similar fashion are laughing all the way to the bank - the Midland Bank which happens to own Montagu and is a larger bank than Morgan Grenfell.

Argyll cannot afford to rely solely on the recommendation of the Office of Fair Trading. Lightning may not strike twice. The alternative is a higher offer, which is both a high risk strategy for Argyll and a challenge to the financing ingenuity of Citicorp and First Boston. But if a higher offer did emerge, so too would questions about stories now circulating about the unspoken deal the bold James Gulliver may have adumbrated with others interested in the future of Distillers if and when it fell to Argyll.

One name, inevitably, is Seagram. But the really fascinating one is Sir James Goldsmith. The two Jimmies in harness could poefferly assist each other's ambitions.

Dilemma for Chancellor

By mid-session yesterday in New York, the long bond was 50 cents away from making history. Quoted at 113.75, the stock only needed to hit a fraction below 114% before the yield big figure changed yet again, this time from 8 to 7.

Never in bond market trading, claim the pundits, have yields fallen so far and so fast. Just one month ago, the yield on the long bond was comfortably over 9 per cent and heading nowhere. It just goes to show, opine analysts, that the Saudis really do carry huge clout within Western economies. Ten years ago, they devastated inflation expectations by raising oil prices; now they are having the reverse effect by cutting Western energy costs.

The Fed, playing a *misere* hand along with other central banks, received some unexpected help in the cause of moderating rate cut hopes yesterday from the US Commerce Secretary, Malcolm Baldrige. Bonds in New York derived a huge boost from publication of the January leading indicators, which showed a decline of 0.6 per cent. This immediately fuelled hopes that the US economy was so weak that the Fed would find itself obliged to cut the discount rate, as a stimulant.

Enter the obliging Baldrige. He pointed out that the leading indicators index had risen unchecked for the past six months; that hiccups in indices occurred quite frequently; that the December index had been revised upwards; and that the US would show healthy near-term growth. To no avail. For gilt traders, yesterday was party time until sterling sagged, as usual, in mid-afternoon.

It is hard, in the short term, to see how the sense of fiesta can be broken, provided sterling holds up. Trading today will be dominated by hopes that West Germany's central bank will cut its Lombard rate tomorrow. On a longer time-scale, the market has apparently convinced itself that entry to the safe haven of EMS lies only a matter of weeks away. But sterling remains the unknown factor. It will still behove the Chancellor to frustrate market hopes on Budget Day by adopting a Hamlet-like stance towards the question of EMS entry. But, equally, spare a thought for his dilemma. Opec meets in Geneva just before the Budget - on March 18 - and the Chancellor stands a fair chance of being well and truly "Yamanied". Some claim the true Budget will be contained in the erratum clip, available after the Sheikh, as well as the Chancellor, has spoken.

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THE M&G GROUP

New York (AP-DJ) - Stock prices fell out of step with the continuing rally in the bond market and finished lower in active trading.

Table with columns for company names (e.g., AMF, ASA, Allied Signal) and stock prices for March 3 and 5.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES table showing market rates for various currencies and terms.

The further slide in crude oil prices put the pound under renewed pressure on the foreign exchange markets yesterday.

DOLLAR SPOT RATES table listing exchange rates for various countries like Ireland, Singapore, Australia, etc.

COMMODITIES table listing prices for various goods like Soyabean, Rubber, Wheat, etc.

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD table showing discount rates, prime bank bills, and gold prices.

EURO MONEY DEPOSITS % table showing interest rates for various banks and currencies.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS table listing various investment funds and their performance.

Table with columns for company names and stock prices for March 3 and 5.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES table showing futures prices for various commodities.

Table with columns for company names and stock prices for March 3 and 5.

Table with columns for company names and stock prices for March 3 and 5.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Large table listing various unit trusts, their managers, and performance metrics.



TEMPUS

Intal shot ensures Fisons runs

Fisons is like a racehorse owner who has prepared his thoroughbred for a big race but has not announced whether it will run. Punters assume it will enter the takeover fray but the company is not saying either way.

It easily passed the fitness test yesterday by announcing a 50 per cent increase in pretax profits for 1985 to £72.3 million, or £5 million better than most forecasts. It has a strong share price and cash in the bank. The combination suggests that it cannot be long before Fisons makes a bid.

Fisons denied yesterday that there had been any talks with Beecham, which, it has been suggested, might make a reverse takeover, but other deals are still possible.

The company points out that the existing businesses are growing quickly, helped by a series of small acquisitions. Last year profits in the pharmaceutical division rose by 25 per cent to £39 million before interest, aided by a good rise in sales of Intal, the asthma product, in America. With related drugs, Intal accounts for roughly two-thirds of the pharmaceuticals business.

The American launch of the aerosol version will sustain growth this year, and after that much depends on Tilade, another asthma product, which has yet to be registered, although approval in at least one European market is expected this year. Once launched, this product could be important for Fisons, although it is too early to say whether it will be as important as Zimac has been for Glaxo. Meanwhile, the launch of Doposed, a heart drug, has been put back until next year.

Scientific equipment and horticulture were also strong performers. And these divisions offer plenty of scope for

expansion. Whereas there are few pharmaceutical companies available to purchase, there are many scientific equipment companies from which to choose. This means that Fisons can in theory make acquisitions more easily than, say Glaxo, which has restricted itself to pharmaceuticals.

At the year end Fisons had £40 million net cash, even after spending £24 million on the acquisitions. And it admits that the bank is not the best place for this money. In time a cash pile could hinder earnings growth.

Although it can plainly afford a large purchase, Fisons may choose to continue expanding by a series of small purchases. What is clear is that Fisons is in no mood to be taken over. And with its shares trading on 19 times prospective earnings, which represents only a small discount to Glaxo, there are few companies able to bid. Even so, the shares are not expensive.

Hawley Group

The rehabilitation of Mr Michael Ashcroft, chairman of Hawley Group, is virtually complete, to judge by the share price. Last July it sank below 70p but yesterday it touched 113p at one point, which means that it has recovered all the ground lost last year.

The comeback reflects the company's declared strategy of tidying up the empire. Investors had become anxious that the number of stakes held in quoted companies was distracting attention from the main business. Eighteen months ago there were five quoted subsidiaries but now there is none.

As a result the company claims to have a clean profile. Yesterday it produced figures

for 1985 which went some way to confirming the new shape. Profits were up from an adjusted £28.5 million to £33 million before tax and earnings per share were 30 per cent higher, at 12.9p.

The only problem for Hawley is that almost a third of the profits come from associates, of which by definition it does not have full control. However, the main associate is Cope Altman, where Mr Ashcroft is chairman, so he can claim to be highly influential. Last November he implied that he wanted to sell the 43 per cent stake in Cope, now worth £50 million, but this idea seems to have been put on the back-burner.

The requirement for cash has become less urgent, as Hawley recently raised \$80 million (£37 million) by issuing convertible preference shares.

Consequently its net bank borrowings now stand at just £25 million, against shareholders' funds of £100 million. That makes Hawley fairly liquid, so it cannot be long before there is renewed corporate activity. On Mr Ashcroft's timescale, long is any time after this year. America, which accounted for 60 per cent of last year's profits, is the favoured area for expansion. Hawley is keen to build on its network of cleaning and maintenance services there. Last year the division increased its contribution by 74 per cent to £10.4 million before interest and more growth is in store.

Even after the rehabilitation, the shares are trading on less than 9 times earnings, which leaves plenty of scope for appreciation.

Unilever

It is often the case that mature reflection will modify gut reaction. The stock

market's initial response to Unilever's 1985 results was to mark the shares up sharply to £15. In this case, the gut response will probably prove to be right.

The market was pleasantly surprised with pretax profits of £954 million, a 3 per cent increase on last year, achieved despite adverse exchange rate movements. Admittedly, most of the improvement was attributable to the first full-year's contribution from Brooke Bond, and this inevitably raises the question whether we can expect future profits growth without further acquisitions.

But the rationalization and investment programme of the last few years suggests that there will be solid profit growth next year. Unilever has cast off the majority of its fringe businesses, many of which were unprofitable. It has also been investing heavily in its core activities with the emphasis on geographical diversification, especially in the US where the once-moribund Lever Bros. is rising phoenix-like from the ashes of neglect.

Unilever will continue to make acquisitions as part of its general business strategy — to gain a foothold in new areas, especially the Pacific Basin, and to broaden its product base in markets where it is weak, such as Personal Products in the US. Whether it will make a jumbo acquisition on the scale of Beecham is another matter.

With year-end cash of nearly £500 million and the ability to borrow £1 billion more, the company can easily afford a major purchase. Since losing Richardson-Vicks to Procter & Gamble last year there has been no obvious target for takeover and the group may hold off until some of the froth has gone out of the market.

COMPANY NEWS

● **MICROVITEC:** For the year to December 31, 1985, the final dividend was 0.75p, making 1.25p. With figures in £000, turnover was 39,743 (14,806); gross profit 4,710 (5,035); operating profit 1,020 (2,316); pretax profit 1,147 (2,640); earnings per share 2.7p (5.3p).

● **ALFRED MCALPINE:** Through its US subsidiary, Alfred McAlpine Minerals, the company has acquired Becker Sand & Gravel, a privately-owned company in Carolina, US, for \$12.35 million cash (about £8.6 million). Net profits before tax of the continuing operations of Becker for the year ending November 28, 1985, were about \$700,000, a turnover of \$16 million. McAlpine estimates that after the acquisition, annual net profit before tax will exceed \$1.5 million in the first year and \$2 million afterwards. McAlpine says this purchase will establish the group as one of the leading producers of aggregates, roadstone and special gravels in the South-east of the US.

● **SMITH & NEPHEW ASSOCIATED COMPANIES:** The company has acquired the cold water orthopaedic cast business of Hexcel Corporation of the US, which supplies and manufactures synthetic orthopaedic splinting materials and is a supplier to Smith & Nephew. The consideration is about \$4 million (£2.78 million).

● **BURMAH OIL:** Burmah Speciality Chemicals has acquired the water management division of Clow Corporation for \$12 million (£8.3 million). The business, based in Pontiac, Michigan, will now be known as Burmah Technical Services.

● **KLEINWORT BENSON LONSDALE:** The company has completed the acquisition of the 70.1 per cent of Charlesworth & Company not already owned. The consideration was 22,042 ordinary shares, £109,300 in unlisted unsecured loan stock and £140,800 in cash. In addition, Charlesworth has repaid to the vendors loans of £300,000. Charlesworth has changed its name to Kleinwort Charlesworth.

● **MCKECHNIE BROS:** The group's proposed offer for Newman Tonks has been approved at an extraordinary meeting. The voting figures were 21.88 million in favour and 20.53 million against.

More company news on page 21

STOCK MARKET REPORT

ICI leads new rise as speculators return

The stock market bounded back strongly after Monday's falls. An initially dull start was shrugged aside as speculative fever returned.

The main lead, however, came from the gilts, which were considerably stronger on the back of better demand in US credit markets. They closed with healthy gains to 2 1/2 points, also helped by the strength of the pound.

Leading equities ended with rises in double figures, led by ICI, up 33p at 957p, after comment and US support. National Westminster Bank also did well, ending 25p to the good at 734p after better-than-expected figures. This gave a boost to the entire banking sector, Midland, which reports tomorrow, finishing with an 8p gain at 487p.

Insurances also improved, though brokers were in no the dull side. Commercial Union,

2p better at 277p, reports figures tomorrow. C E Heath gave up 7p to 653p, however, also in the financial arena. Provident Financial jumped 39p to 399p after results and scrip proposals.

Elsewhere, Beecham added 5p at 355p after comment and P&O scored an 18p rise at 506p thanks to good options business.

On the bid front, Norton Opax, down 2p at 143p, made an offer for McCorquodale, which gained 12p to 223p. Coleroll returned from suspension to close down 2p at 186p, with an offer for Staffordshire Potteries, also back from suspension. Staffordshire Potteries finished at 118p, a fall of 1p.

Fisons, after better-than-expected profits, closed 7p ahead at 528p.

Speculative demand was responsible for gains in Parker Knoll A, up 12p at 395p, Avon Rubber, also 12p higher at 305p, and Brooke Tool Engineering, 8p firmer at 46p.

Wolesley Hughes added 7p to 513p after 478p as the Grovewood benefits outweighed the rights issue. AMS Industries lost 15p at 89p after Monday's cautious statement.

British Aerospace went 22p ahead to 558p after the recent Saudi Arabian contract. High-technology stocks met selective support. Cable and Wireless were 30p up at 667p, BT added 4p at 208p, and Amstrad jumped 24p at 390p on the launch of the new disc system.

Stores saw Woolworth rise 18p to 506p as the sector reversed a dull start. GUS A, however, met profit-taking which left it 25p lower at 884p. Gids shed about 50 cents.

RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES

Abbott Mead V (180p)	230
Ashley (L) (135p)	232 up 2
Brookmount (180p)	180
Chart FL (80p)	90
Charonary Seas (53p)	71
Cranswick M (95p)	109
Davidson P (160p)	165
Dialene (128p)	170
Ferguson (J) (10p)	23
Granary Surice (56p)	71
Inoco (55p)	50 dn 1
JS Pathology (160p)	263
Klearfold (118p)	115 dn 3
Lexicon (115p)	2115
Macro 4 (105p)	140
Mervale Moore (115p)	125
Microsystems (127p)	138 up 3
Norank Sys (90p)	100
Really Useful (530p)	385
SAC Intl (100p)	130
SPP (125p)	157 dn 1
Templaton (215p)	220 up 2
Sigmex (101p)	86
Snowdon & B (97p)	112
Spice (80p)	93
Tech Corp (130p)	214
Underwoods (160p)	184
Wellcome (126p)	181 up 7

W York Hosp (90p)

80

Wickes (140p)

147 dn 1

RIGHTS ISSUES

Cray Elec F/P

296

Hartwells N/P

4

Peel Htdgs F/P

475

Porter Chad F/P

4 up 1

Safeway UK

244 1/2 up 2

Stormguard F/P

20

Wates N/P

24 dn 1

Westland N/P

13

Damage claim

Buckingham Corp, a member of the Whitbread North America Group, has started arbitration proceedings against Oy Alko AB and Baron Philippe de Rothschild on a damages claim under the exclusive distribution agreements which Buckingham had for the two companies' products. Finlandia vodka and Mouton Cadet wines.

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:

Cookson	475p +12
Brit Aerospace	558 +22
Amstrad	390 +24
Burmastex	136 +10
Bricom	141 +9
Parker Knoll A	295 +12
Avon Rubber	305 +12
S and W Beristord	212 +5
Univer	1480p +30
McCorquodale	223 +13
Woolworth	506 +18
Brit Vitz	255 +11
P and O	506 +18
Natwest	734 +25
Star Plus	268 +35
Blue Arrow	276 +15
Brooks Tool	46 +8
Star Plus	295 +10
Cable & Wire	667 +30
ICI	957 +33
Prov Financial	399 +38

FALLS:

Michael Peters	145 -28
AMS Inds	89 -15
Telematrix	90 -5
Blagden Ins	114 -10

● **RAEBURN INVESTMENT TRUST:** The holdings in the trust under the management of the Prudential group of companies are 4.61 million ordinary shares (17.25 per cent).

TACE PLC
Results for the year to the 30th September, 1985

...“another record year”...

- Profit before tax increased 41% to £3,116,000 (1984 — £2,217,000)
- Earnings per share increased 59% to 21.41p (1984 — 13.47p)
- Final dividend 4.55p per share (1984 — 3.0p) giving total for the year of 6.65p (1984 — 4.50p)
- Anderson Instruments contributing materially to current year
- Further material increase in earnings forecast

Annual Report from The Secretary, Tace plc, Essex Hall, Essex Street, London WC2R 3JD

“We regard Green Park Health Care as one of the best BES issues of 1985/86.” W Greenwell & Co Stockbrokers

Green Park Health Care Plc is establishing nursing homes, residential homes and day care facilities under a concept of co-ordinated care for the elderly.

- ★ Minimum non-underwritten subscription already achieved
- ★ Two important properties have been acquired
- ★ One establishment fully operational
- ★ Offer share price 100 per cent backed by net assets
- ★ Experienced management & health care team
- ★ Investment offer carries full BES tax relief for 1985/86

The minimum subscription having been well exceeded through private investors without underwriting support, the subscription list for the remaining balance of the original Offer of 1,700,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each at £1.15 per share, payable in full on application, will remain open until all the Ordinary shares are fully subscribed to or not later than noon on March 17, 1986.

To be sure of meeting the closing date of March 17 1986 for this highly recommended BES offer, phone or post this coupon immediately for a copy of the Prospectus.

Name _____
Address _____

POINTON YORK LTD
(a member of NASDMM)
7 Cavendish Square, London, W1M 9HA.
Telephone 01-631 3015

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS NOT AN INVITATION TO SUBSCRIBE TO OR PURCHASE ANY SECURITIES.

INCOME TAX RELIEF 1985/86

Another record year

Earnings per share (pence)

“which have compounded at 48% per annum since 1981”

Net earnings from operations (£000)

“Hawley is now well positioned to take full advantage of the opportunities of sizeable internal and acquisitive growth.”

MA Ashcroft
Chairman and President

If you would like a copy of the 1985 Annual Report, apply to:
Prospect House, The Broadway,
Farnham Common, Slough,
Berkshire SL2 3PQ.

Handwritten note: "لا بد ان يكون"

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Shares rebound

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began Feb 24. Dealings end March 10. Contango day March 10. Settlement day, March 17. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

THE TIMES Portfolio DAILY DIVIDEND £2,000 Claims required for +48 points Claimants should ring 0254-53772

THE TIMES Portfolio

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

Table with columns: No., Company, 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes sections for ELECTRICALS, INDUSTRIALS A-D, FOODS, and BANKS DISCOUNT HP.

Weekly Dividend table with columns: MON, TUE, WED, THU, FRI, SAT, Dividend.

BRITISH FUNDS

Table with columns: High, Low, Stock, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes sections for SHORTS (Under Five Years) and FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS.

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

Table with columns: No., Stock, Price, Change, % P/E.

UNDATED

Table with columns: No., Stock, Price, Change, % P/E.

INDEX-LINKED

Table with columns: No., Stock, Price, Change, % P/E.

BANKS DISCOUNT HP

Table with columns: No., Stock, Price, Change, % P/E.

Table with columns: No., Company, 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes section for BREWERIES.

BUILDINGS AND ROADS

Table with columns: No., Company, 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E.

FINANCE AND LAND

Table with columns: No., Company, 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E.

FOODS

Table with columns: No., Company, 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E.

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

Table with columns: No., Company, 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E.

CINEMAS AND TV

Table with columns: No., Company, 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E.

DRAPERY AND STORES

Table with columns: No., Company, 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E.

ELECTRICALS

Table with columns: No., Company, 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E.

Table with columns: No., Company, 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E.

INSURANCE

Table with columns: No., Company, 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E.

LEISURE

Table with columns: No., Company, 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E.

MINING

Table with columns: No., Company, 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E.

HOTELS AND CATERERS

Table with columns: No., Company, 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E.

INDUSTRIALS A-D

Table with columns: No., Company, 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E.

MOTORS AND AIRCRAFT

Table with columns: No., Company, 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E.

NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLISHERS

Table with columns: No., Company, 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E.

Table with columns: No., Company, 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E.

E-K

Table with columns: No., Company, 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E.

L-R

Table with columns: No., Company, 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E.

S-Z

Table with columns: No., Company, 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E.

OIL

Table with columns: No., Company, 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E.

Table with columns: No., Company, 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E.

OVERSEAS TRADERS

Table with columns: No., Company, 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E.

PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERT'G

Table with columns: No., Company, 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E.

PROPERTY

Table with columns: No., Company, 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E.

SHIPPING

Table with columns: No., Company, 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E.

SHOES AND LEATHER

Table with columns: No., Company, 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E.

TEXTILES

Table with columns: No., Company, 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E.

TOBACCOS

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One-for-

MEDMIN

MEDMIN

MEDMIN

COMPANY NEWS

One-for-five Provident scrip

The Provident Financial Group is paying a final dividend of 9p for 1985, making a total of 13p (against 10.5p) and plans a one-for-five scrip issue.

● CRA: The company is paying a final dividend of 10 cents (4 cents) making a total of 15 cents for 1985.

● BTP: The company has disposed of the assets of its leasing subsidiary, IM Financial Services, for £1,437,320 in cash.

● BLAGDEN INDUSTRIES: Total dividend of 7.2p (same) for 1985.

● JOHNSTONE'S PAINTS: The group's second-half performance last year and the outlook for 1986 encourages the directors to recommend an increase of 1.9p per cent in the final dividend to 2.5p.

● MICHAEL PETERS: For the six months to December 31, 1985, the interim dividend was 1p (same).

● BARINGS: Arrangements have been made for the transfer of the investment management business hitherto conducted by Barings Brothers and Co to Barings Investment Management (BIM).

● HIGGS POINT SERVICES: Last Friday Higgs-Point CTMS Inc, its American subsidiary, entered into an agreement with Mr Alfred E Schaefer for the acquisition of Schaefer Associates, subject to formal consent from HM Treasury.

● ANS INDUSTRIES: In the year to November 30, 1985, the dividend was 0.82p net, as forecast in the prospectus.

● DEWEY WARREN HOLDINGS: Final dividend 5p (same), making 7.5p (7p) for 1985.

● THE STAFF GROUP: The Staff-Plus Group is paying a final dividend of 2p, making 3p (2p) for 1985.

● HUNTSWOOD GROUP: No interim dividend (nil). Turnover for the six months to Sept 30, 1985, £7.24 million (£8.85 million).

● JOHN KENT: For the 26 weeks to Nov 23, 1985, the company is paying an interim dividend of 0.5p (0.425p) on April 14.

● KENNETH LANG RUBBER: A final dividend of 170p per cent is being paid on April 15, making a total 250 per cent (350 per cent) for 1985.

● HUNTSBURY ELECTRONIC CONTROLS: For the six months to Nov 30, 1985, turnover was £544,996 (£316,323).

● POOL ELECTRONIC: Pre-tax profit for six months to November 30 was £433,000 (£350,000).

● ENTERTAINMENT PRODUCTIONS SERVICES: No interim dividend for six months to October 31 (same). Pre-tax loss: £395,000 (profit £45,000).

● A C CARS: No dividend (nil) for the year to Sept 30, 1985. Turnover £252,936 (£360,565).

● ROBERTSON RESEARCH: The company has completed the acquisition of 79.6 per cent of Energy Resource Consultants.

● COLNE VALLEY WATER CO: Surplus for 1985 (after depreciation, debenture stock interest, transfer to contingency fund and tax) was £150,000 (£370,000).

● GOODWIN: No interim dividend (nil). Turnover £4.87 million (£3.53 million). Pre-tax profit £353,000 (£101,000).

● SWOOD GROUP: No interim dividend (nil). Turnover for the six months to Sept 30, 1985, £7.24 million (£8.85 million).

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Two new directors for Baring Brothers



James G Laing (above), who has been appointed deputy chairman of Y J Lovell (Holdings). He will remain group financial director.

Boosey & Hawkes: Mr R H Asserson has been appointed chairman, succeeding Mr A R G Raeburn, who remains on the board as a non-executive director.

Baring Brothers & Co: Mr Christopher Heath and Mr Richard Onians have joined the board.

Inbucan Management Consultants: Mr Mike Treasure has been made director, London Region, computer personnel selection.

Lee International: Mr John T Davey has been named as non-executive chairman and Mr Colin S Willis as a non-executive director.

become managing director, direct retailing division. Clarkson Puckle UK: Mr P R H Friend and Mr B Griener have joined the board.

AMEC: Mr John Early has been appointed finance director.

Citicorp Investment Bank: Mr Andre Cohen has been appointed executive director in charge of Eurodollar operations for the Australasian region.

J M Jones & Sons (Holdings): Mr Michael J Bailey has been made group managing director.

Lever has been made managing director. Lovestell: Mr Gordon Lovestell has been appointed managing director, Controls and Instrumentation Group.

Steel Window Association: Mr K R Fenner has been made director.

Moorgate Mercantile Holdings: Mr Gordon J Wiggins has been appointed a main board director.

Nationalised Industries' Chairman's Group: Mr Philip Jones, chairman of the Electricity Council, is to be chairman in succession to Sir Robert Haslam.

NOTICE OF REDEMPTION

CDC INTERNATIONAL FINANCE CORPORATION 5% GUARANTEED CONVERTIBLE DEBENTURE DUE APRIL 1, 1988

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the holders of outstanding 5% Sinking Fund Debenture due April 1, 1988 (the "Debenture") of CDC International Finance Corporation (the "Company") that in accordance with Sections 3.01, 3.04 and 4.01 of the Indenture...

Table listing debenture numbers and their corresponding redemption dates, organized in columns.

On April 1, 1986, the Debentures will become due and payable and are required to be presented and surrendered for redemption and payment on or before said date at the following places of payment:

- Chemical Bank New York Trust Company, 55 Water Street, New York, N.Y. 10041
Deutsche Bank A.G., Frankfurt/Main, Federal Republic of Germany
Bank of America, National Trust and Savings Association, in London, Brussels, Paris or Amsterdam
Banca Commerciale Italiana, Milan, Mantua, Italy
Banque Generale de Luxembourg S.A., Luxembourg

The Debentures called for redemption herein may be converted into shares of Common Stock of the Company at the conversion price of \$60.42 for each share provided the Debentures are surrendered for conversion on or before the close of business on the tenth (10th) day prior to the "Redemption Date"...

By BANK OF AMERICA National Trust and Savings Association Trustee
Dated at San Francisco, CA February 11 1986

MEDMINSTER PLC. Activities of the Group: Furniture hire to conferences, exhibitions, films, photographic studios, television and theatres. Interim Report table showing 1985 and 1984 results.

BASE LENDING RATES. Table listing various banks and their rates, including ABN, Adam & Company, BCCI, etc.

CHESHAM. Our business is selling yours. The best known name in merger broking.

NatWest 1985 Results. THE ACTION BANK. Group Profits for 1985 £804 million. Total Assets exceed £72,000 million. Shareholders' funds £3,000 million. 100,000 Shareholders. 10 million Customers. 92,000 Staff worldwide.

BOXING

Holmes needs to prove himself against Spinks

New York (Reuter) - Humility was never Larry Holmes' strong suit during his seven and a half year reign as world heavyweight boxing champion.

Curry begins to stalk Hagler

Donald Curry, the undisputed welterweight champion, says he will deal with Eduardo Rodriguez, the challenger, then launch a campaign he hopes will culminate in a match with Marvin Hagler, middleweight champion of the world.



Larry Holmes: the face of a man hoping for revenge and to equal Marciano's record

TENNIS

Leaders at Queen's

Boris Becker, Jimmy Connors, Stefan Edberg, Anders Jarryd and Brad Gilbert, all ranked among the game's 10 leading players, intend to compete in the eighth Stella Artois championships, to be held at Queen's Club, West Kensington, from June 9 to 15.

RUGBY UNION: SIMMS STILL HOPEFUL OF FACING FRANCE

East Midlands are outsiders despite Barbarians changes

Like a tube of water suddenly untopped, a rush of belated fixtures will take place over the next fortnight now that the weather has relaxed.

CRICKET

Richardson and Richards go on the rampage

A dazzling partnership of 117 in nine overs between Richardson and Richards took West Indies to three in an innings reduced by showers to 37 overs in the second one-day international here yesterday.

Australia rescued by Border again

Christchurch (AP) - New Zealand and Australia drew the second Test yesterday after the Australian captain Allan Border had scored his second century of the match to extricate his side from a difficult situation in the afternoon session.

Oxford fail to break the Cambridge spell

Oxford again failed to break the winning sequence of Cambridge, who beat them for the fifth successive year in their annual match yesterday at Goldham's Common, Cambridge. Last year, Cambridge won 2-0.

Fleetwood hit by decision

Norman Foulds, of the Fleetwood club, said yesterday that the players and committee at the club were "absolutely devastated" by the decision of the northern-based Giro Bank League to wipe out their records for the season as punishment for refusing a former Rugby League player.

Roman spring for Colts

The England Colts team to play Italy in Rome on March 22 will be announced on Sunday after the annual match against Loughborough University freshmen the previous day.

Cup dates in extra time

The Rugby Football Union have given permission for the John Player Special Cup semi-finals to be played up to and including April 3.

Wojtinek holds off Kelly's late challenge

Bruno Wojtinek, the useful French sprinter who will be 23 tomorrow, gained his second successive stage win in the Paris-Nice race yesterday.

Player with barely a minute to spare

The breakthrough from promise to success in international sport is often the most demanding stage of a career. The need to nurse a burgeoning domestic reputation conspires exhaustively with increasing opportunity abroad.

Restoring the national image with a pill a day

After the allegations over drug-taking, the race is on to find acceptable alternatives. Restoring the national image with a pill a day.

Restoring the national image with a pill a day

Restoring the national image with a pill a day. The Institute is now experimenting with amino acids and natural products as well as training to improve on personal bests.

RACING RESULTS

Table with racing results including names of horses, jockeys, and times for various races.

Robinson and re... to frust... Liverp...

War waged... plastic rev...

Highbury pa... slips into hi...

FOOTBALL: PREVIEWS OF CUP MATCHES AT HOME AND ABROAD

Robinson is fit and ready to frustrate Liverpool

Michael Robinson is ready to face his former Liverpool colleagues at Anfield tonight and help Queens' Park Rangers into the Milk Cup final.

Robinson, who can play in midfield or in attack, has missed four games with a fractured cheekbone but is certain to play in the semi-final, second leg. Bannister, the club's top scorer, and James, who has finished serving a two-match suspension, will also return as Rangers attempt to defend their one-goal advantage.

Bannister did not play in the defeat at Birmingham on Saturday because of knee ligament trouble. "He was a specialist yesterday afternoon and there are no problems," said his manager, Jim Smith, confirmed.

Robinson missed the first leg because of his facial injury and his only outing in the past month was a friendly against Weymouth last week.

Rangers delay selection from 13, and Smith's main problem is where to play Fenwick. Smith, however, dismissed suggestions that he will play five men in defence. "Every club has to defend at Anfield but we are going there to be as positive as we can," he said.

Walsh, who has been injured for the last few weeks, is included in a Liverpool squad of 14.

West Ham United's long-delayed FA Cup fifth round meeting with Manchester United could be televised live on Sunday.

With the thaw now giving clubs problems with flooding after the big freeze, tonight's game is still in doubt and an inspection is planned this morning.

The FA have drawn up complex contingency plans to ensure that television gets something to show on Sunday.

If tomorrow's Upton Park game produces a positive result, then the winners' sixth-round tie at Derby on Sheffield Wednesday will be the same. But if it produces a result and Derby draw their replay at Sheffield Wednesday, then the second replay between Derby and Sheffield Wednesday will be the live match.

Watford, meanwhile, have hired water pumps in an attempt to save tonight's home fifth round tie with Barnet.

A morning inspection is planned at Vicarage Road.

The club secretary, Eddie Plumley, said: "The ground is still rock hard and although some of the ice has come out of the surface it is just staying on top. The rain has only increased the amount of water on the pitch."

Luton Town will not announce their side for tonight's FA Cup fifth round second replay against Arsenal until shortly before kick-off.

Luton's manager, David Pleat, said that he was delighted with the form of his team on the home ground on Monday night's goalless draw at Arsenal but added: "I may change things a little."

Daniel, Mark Stein and Brecker are the additions to the 12 on duty at Highbury.



The key men: Platini (left), the Juventus playmaker; Black (centre), Aberdeen's goalscoring and Archibald (right), on whose fitness Barcelona's hopes depend

Aberdeen go for tradition

By Hugh Taylor

Aberdeen, the Scottish champions, whose style is effectively modern, may revert to more old-fashioned methods in their attempt to reach the semi-final of the European Cup by beating IFK Göteborg decisively in the first leg of the quarter-final tie at Pitodrie tonight.

Alex Ferguson, the Aberdeen manager, is fortunate in having at his command the ideal players to make full use of the potent combination of accurate cross and telling header.

He knows already that his centre forward, Eric Black, whose power in the air evokes memories of McGroary and Thomson, is the player most feared by the Göteborg manager, Göran Bengtsson.

Black's appetite. Certainly Aberdeen are firm favourites to win but their manager's biggest task may be to ensure that the players do not underestimate their opponents.

Göteborg may have come to Scotland with tales of woe; no competitive football since November, a 7-1 defeat by Wimbledon in a practice match, goalkeeper problems, and worries that recently-signed players may not have joined in time to play in the tie.

But Ferguson is too experienced to be lulled by the complaints of wily rivals. He has warned his side that Göteborg, who are known as angels but play in the combative Viking style, are the only Swedish club to reach the European Cup in 1982.

Notwithstanding, Alex Ferguson considers that if Aberdeen play to form and they have proved almost invincible at home, although their away record is poor - they can score the three goals he feels are necessary to see them into the semi-finals.

The draw has come in time to allow play at Pitodrie but Aberdeen had to move south to train at Tannadice for what Ferguson is describing as their most important match. It was a helpful gesture by Dundee United to allow their rivals for the Scottish championship the use of their heated pitch.

It is difficult to visualize Aberdeen ever having a better chance than this to reach the European Cup semi-finals but it is no secret that the players would be happier if they were to receive more encouragement from their supporters, who are loyal and proud of their team but hardly the most vociferous of followers.

England manager, Bobby Robson, here in Mexico on a three-day visit, is worried about the European Cup public relations with the Mexicans and the altitude problem. But, stubbornly cheerful, he says he is "here to win the World Cup", reckoning England are one of 10 teams with a chance of becoming world champions in June.

"Ten countries are in it," he said. "There's no one team with a clear edge over the rest, some that stands out like an Eddystone lighthouse, but there are 10 that'll be difficult to beat."

Barcelona are depleted but refuse to be pessimistic

From David Miller, Barcelona

Every few years the European Cup produces a truly outstanding team. During 30 years there have been no more than seven or eight. When Barcelona, thrifflingly adventurous, ran away with the Spanish title last year they looked good enough perhaps to join that rare group, but a calamitous succession of injuries this season has tested the ingenuity of their manager, Terry Venables, to its limit.

Never more than 11 players are available for the European Cup quarter-final against Juventus. For Barcelona to defeat the cup holders would be an exceptional achievement.

Ever since 1961, when a scintillating old-fashioned forward line of Kubala, Suarez, Evaristo, Kocsis and Csibor was undermined in the final against Benfica by two goalkeeping blunders beyond even the imagination of Grobbelaar, Barcelona have been trying to buy their way to the European title.

Despite the coming and going of Cruyff and then Maradona, and of managers such as Michels, Weisweiler, Lattek and Menotti, they have always been a team of players, not a team of tactics.

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War waged on the plastic revolution

Terry Shipman, the Leicester City chairman, has canvassed all Football League clubs in the campaign to have artificial pitches outlawed.

Shipman has asked them whether they would support a Cup by night this year's annual meeting and stop the spread of the plastic revolution.

Five clubs are lined up to follow the lead of Queens' Park Rangers and Luton - "We think that this summer will see the last chance for the clubs to control the use of artificial surfaces," Shipman said.

Luton have said they would consider closure if ordered to tear up their pitch, which has boosted their income from outside sources, but Shipman said: "Any acceptance that football should take second place to commercial considerations will merely ensure the final collapse of the game as a spectator sport."

Leicester have suggested three sample resolutions to fellow clubs: the first bans plastic pitches from the start of the 1988-89 season (except in exceptional circumstances); the second limits the best of the top two divisions; the third would allow QPR and Luton to retain their surfaces but prevent other first and second division teams following suit.

The Cardiff City managing director, Ron Jones, believes the Welsh club can be saved from closure. The club's switchboard has been inundated with calls from people interested in joining a consortium to take over the third division club when the present owners, Kenton Utilities, pull out at the end of the season.

Bangor City, eliminated from this season's European Cup-winners' Cup by mighty Atletico Madrid, escaped closure yesterday through a legal technicality, but perhaps only for seven days. The Multiple League club appeared in the High Court over a debt of £3,700 owed to the Leeds firm, Norton and Wright, in connection with a lottery promotion deal. But because of a legal detail in the preparation of the case, the hearing has been adjourned to next Monday.

Chris Nicholl, the Southampton manager, has firmly discounted speculation linking England goalkeeper Peter Shilton with Liverpool. "Peter is staying at the Dell and that's the end of the matter," he said. Shilton is under contract to Southampton until June, 1989, when he will be nearly 40.

Liverpool's player-manager, Kenny Dalglish, has been criticised by one of England's leading referees. Dalglish is accused of being difficult to handle by Sheffield's Keith Hackett in his book, Hackett's Law (Collins Willow).

Hackett says "Kenny will put his arm and his rear anywhere in an effort to get the ball. At times he is guilty of backing into a defender, then, when he finishes on the ground, he will appeal for a free kick when he has perpetrated the foul. From a ref's point of view, he can be difficult to handle."

Highbury pantomime slips into high farce

David Pleat's belief in artificial turf was strengthened by the state of the Highbury pitch on which his Luton team challenged Arsenal for an FA Cup quarter-final place on Monday night.

"It was a wonderful advertisement for synthetic pitches," Pleat said after a farcical first round replay ended in a goalless draw after extra time. I was at the ground with Don Howe at 11am to see a local referee penalise the pitch firm and because we respect our managers we abide by his decision.

But in taking off the snow, dangerous icy patches were revealed and they are always a hazardous element for players.

Arsenal lost the toss for choice of second replay and Luton's ground at Kenilworth Road where, according to Pleat, the artificial pitch is in perfect condition.

It would have been an injustice had either side been eliminated on an appalling Highbury pitch. When the players were not skidding on the ice they were struggling to control a ball bouncing up to 10 feet high off the bone-hard surface.

England manager's PR exercise down Mexico way

England manager, Bobby Robson, here in Mexico on a three-day visit, is worried about the European Cup public relations with the Mexicans and the altitude problem. But, stubbornly cheerful, he says he is "here to win the World Cup", reckoning England are one of 10 teams with a chance of becoming world champions in June.

"Ten countries are in it," he said. "There's no one team with a clear edge over the rest, some that stands out like an Eddystone lighthouse, but there are 10 that'll be difficult to beat."

Robson singled out Franco, Argentina and Brazil. Also, possibly out of deference to his hosts, he mentioned Mexico, though few here believe they will be serious contenders. One player, Eric Black, in Britain, who Robson thinks will be worth watching out for in June is Uruguayan striker Enzo Francescoli, known as "The Prince" in Argentina where, heading the attack of champions River Plate, he is the league's leading scorer.

Robson is aware he has some ground to make up in winning over the locals in Monterrey - the stage for England's first round group - having caused something of a storm in the local press with remarks about the unsuitability of the city as a World Cup site.

But he also knows that troublemakers among the English fans could undermine all his best PR intentions.

"All it takes is two people and you've got a problem on your hands. Unfortunately, that problem then affects us. We can't ignore it and inevitably it takes the edge off our game," said Robson.

"The players are fed up with this sort of thing. Let's just hope those who make the trip over are the decent majority who love the game and just want to be part of a marvellous World Cup."

Robson is in Mexico with the England team doctor, Vernon Edwards, to have a close look at facilities for his players in the hot northern city of Monterrey and in nearby Saltillo, where the team will be staying.

Robson expressed irritation at criticism by Kevin Keegan, among others, at the decision to use Saltillo as the team's base. "We have to live at altitude. There's no way around that. That's why we have to choose but Saltillo," said Robson.

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Pfaff a spy out in the cold

Munich (Reuters) - Bayern Munich's Belgian international Jean-Marie Pfaff has swapped his usual goalkeeper role for that of master spy in the run-up to his team's European Cup quarter-final with Anderlecht tonight.

Pfaff, who teams up with many of the Anderlecht players in the Belgian national side, has given the Bayern trainer Udo Lattek a thorough assessment of what the West German champions can expect. But Lattek will continue to dispense with Pfaff's services between the posts, dealing a harsh blow to his chances of playing in this summer's World Cup finals in Mexico.

Though Pfaff has fully recovered from a groin operation late last year, the brilliant form of his replacement Raimond Aumann is keeping him out of the team.

The mystery Pfaff raised one of the best goalkeepers in the world, desperately wanted to see some action, especially as Belgian national trainer Guy Thys has said he will play in Mexico only if he is the choice at Bayern. Pfaff is also keen to show he is better than the

Anderlecht goalkeeper Jacques Munaron, top to now Belgium's second choice.

Anderlecht, the Belgian League leaders, boast a formidable attack who have scored 67 goals this season. But there are strong doubts over whether they can strike fear into the heart of a Bayern defence who have conceded only 25 goals in as many games.

Bayern may be only a pale imitation of the great Schalke side who won the European Cup three years in a row in the mid-1970s, but they are on top form at the moment, having picked up 14 points from eight games.

In the quarter-finals of the Cup Winners' Cup Rapid Vienna, last season's beaten finalists, face a stern test against an improved Dynamo Kiev side for whom Blokhin has been outstanding. The Ukrainians recently won the title for the eleventh time in 25 years.

Benfica, who are managed by the Englishman John Mortimore and are still trying to recapture past European glory, will start slight favourites against Dukla Prague in a meeting between teams from East and West Germany. Dynamo Dresden take on and should prove technically superior to Bayer Uerdingen.

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Advocacy for Sunday racing put forward

Sir Woodrow Wyatt, chairman of the Horserace Totalisator Board yesterday called for revising the law to allow Sunday racing. Speaking at the Tote's annual lunch, he reported that crowds in Ireland had trebled when racing was switched to Sunday.

He said: "There seems to be something wrong with the Jockey Club control of fixtures, but they have become so enlightened I am sure they will act immediately to correct this anomaly. The Jockey Club are radical leaders in supporting Sunday racing against the conservative pessimists. Back Old England, always decades behind everyone else."

"Once the English made jokes about the Irish. Now the Irish have the laugh on us. They are promoting Sunday racing brilliantly. Leopardsport in 1985 the Wessell meeting was on a Wednesday. This year it is on a Sunday, February 16. The audience trebled. Bookmakers' turnover nearly doubled and the tote turnover more than doubled to make a new course record."

"The racing industry could, like other major sports, break the law and have Sunday racing. We don't because until the law is changed, cash betting would be illegal - and there would be plenty of it on the course. In the pubs and the tote turnover more than doubled to make a new course record."

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RACING-BLANK SPELL DRAWS TO AN END AND A GRAND NATIONAL DREAM BEGINS

Fitzgerald's fit team should leave the rest struggling

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

Jimmy Fitzgerald looks the trainer to follow at Catterick today if racing does take place. After expressing a fair amount of surprise at the prospect yesterday, the general 51-year-old Irishman, who lives not far away at Malton and now commands a modestly successful stable in the land, went on to intimate that his horses will not fail for want of fitness even after an enforced break of four weeks.

"Mine have done as much strong groundwork as they would have done normally; perhaps, upon reflection, even more," were his words. Long stints up his all-weather strip, interspersed with trips to the seaside to work along Fley beach seem to have done the trick.

With one eye cocked upon the rich pickings to be had at Cheltenham next week, Fitzgerald went on to say that the law permitting one bit of last work on the grass this weekend should put his good horses, such as last year's Gold Cup winner *Fortive* and *Fortet* and the Hennessy hero *Galway Blaze* just about right.

Today at Catterick Fitzgerald will be doubly represented by *Door Step* and *Bally-Go* in the Peter Vaux Memorial Trophy Handicap Chase which is the feature race. *Door Step*, who won the race 12 months ago, will be the first of the season.

In the circumstances a repeat is probably expected too much especially under long weight. But his stable companion, *Bally-Go*, in the hands of Mark Dwyer should be a tough nut to crack. He ran not long before the freeze-up at Market Rasen, where his third place behind *Another City* and *Donegal Prince* augured well for the future, especially bearing in mind that that was his first race of the season and he was taking on others who were hard as iron.

Welfare, who has won four races this term, including his first, which proves that he is a clean-winded animal, strikes me as being a greater threat than the novice, *Prince Santiago*.

Call Me Claire (2-45) and Tawny Spirit (4-15) could be other winners for Fitzgerald on his local track.

Catterick hope after thaw

Prospects of racing resuming in Britain much earlier than expected after a break of 23 days depend on a 7.30 am inspection this morning. The clerk of the course, Kit Patterson, said: "There is a hope. We have a strong west wind and the frost is coming out of the ground." Today's other

Turnell looks up to 'The Boss'

In the third of a series on some of the less obvious candidates for the Grand National, JOHN KARTER visits Andy Turnell and his 40-1 chance, Tracys Special

Liverpool's bookmakers will be running for cover if Tracy Special wins the Grand National on April 5. For the lass who looks after him, 21-year-old Tracy Glover (the name is purely coincidental), was brought up just a horsehouse's throw from the Aintree course and her vast Scouse army of family and friends — half the city of Liverpool, she laughingly assures us — will be piling all the cash they can carry on the nine-year-old gelding.

When she was knee high to a Shetland pony Miss Glover's grandfather would take her down to the famous Melling Road to watch the National horses thunder past. She became obsessed with racing and with the world's greatest steeplechase in particular. She remembers sneaking in over a wall and cheering the mighty Red Rum. "Tracys is much better than him," she jokes and since then she has nurtured an all-consuming dream that she would one day lead a horse into that hallowed winner's enclosure.

While the Glover clan may be relying on blind faith in their support for the horse she refers to as "The Boss", because of the way he lords it in his stable, the same could not be said of Andy Turnell, who trains the horse at East Hendred in Oxfordshire. Hardly the sort of man given to hankering over-optimistically, Turnell has good, solid reasons for believing that Tracys Special could not only fulfil Miss Glover's dream, but also fill a gaping hole in the big-race record of the Turnells in this year's Seagram-sponsored event.

The Turnell name became synonymous with success in the post-war era of National Hunt racing. Andy's father, Bob, bagged nearly every worthwhile prize as a trainer, including the Gold Cup and Champion Hurdle, and Andy, although just missing out on the blue riband events, rode such outstanding horses as the Laird, Birds Nest and Beacon Light to many great victories.

Unequivocal view of a special magic

Andy Turnell also won two Norwegian Grand Nationals and a Swedish one, but as yet, though, no Turnell has appeared on the Aintree roll of honour. Bob Turnell would have won on Cloucurragh in 1950, Freebooter's year, but for falling at the second last. He also rode Irish Lizzard into third place in 1953.

As a trainer, Turnell senior's best result was in 1969 when he saddled three horses and all completed the course — *Rondetto* (third), *The Beeches* (fourth) and *Limeburner* (twelfth). The best Andy Turnell's 13



Sharing a dream: the two Tracys put their heads together to plot a path to glory at Aintree

rides yielded was a third place, on *Charles Dickens* in 1974. However, had it not been for a broken breastplate which seriously affected the horse's breathing and brought him to a standstill after the line, he might well have given Brian Fletcher and Red Rum something to think about on their way to a second victory.

Turnell also fell at the first fence in two Nationals, but his overall view of the great race is unequivocal. "There's a magic about it," he says, "his blue eyes sparkling. 'I loved riding in it. You feel you're really achieved something just to complete the course, or even get over the Chair for that matter.'"

So, as Steve Knight canters down to the start on Tracys Special, Turnell's first runner as a trainer in the National, he admits he will not find playing the role of impartial onlooker easy. "And it will be made particularly hard by the fact that Turnell believes that Knight has the genuine National article underneath him. "Given luck in running, I think he must have a live chance," Turnell says in that slow, considered way of his. "He's got a touch of class

and there are very few horses with his ability on that sort of handicap mark."

That ability saw Tracys Special win five good races the season before last, culminating in a victory in the Ritz Club Chase at the Cheltenham Festival. There he beat Righthand Man, who was conceding only 6lb and who went on to finish runner-up in the Gold Cup the following year. Indeed, Turnell believed that Tracys Special would himself be good enough to contest the Cheltenham showpiece before he developed a leg problem after running the following season's Hennessy Gold Cup.

Sensing tangible air of optimism

"He didn't actually break down," Turnell says, "but he developed a 'leg' and I decided that as he was only seven it would be wise to give him the rest of the season off and bring him back this season for a crack at the National." Tracys Special had his comeback race when fourth of four — he ran well for a long

way over a trip too short for him — to Combs Ditch at Wincanton in January. A minor knock prevented him having another outing before the freeze, but he has been galloping on the sands at Burnham and on Paul Cole's all-weather strip at Whitcombe and Turnell is confident that he is now as good as he ever was. "He is certainly not past his prime at nine," he says. The plan is to try to win the Ritz Club at the Festival with him again next week and then on to Liverpool.

Turnell has not enjoyed the rub of the green since he moved to East Hendred from the traditional family headquarters at Marlborough. Two-thirds of his horses have been out of action for various reasons and he has only two winners this season.

Yet there is an almost tangible air of optimism running through the yard, with a certain long-distance steeplechase very much on everyone's lips. The good-humoured staff of Orchard Stables may tease the lass from Liverpool numerically, but deep down they believe that April 5 could be Tracys special day.

Aintree preparations are well advanced

By Christopher Goulding

With the Grand National less than five weeks away, the groundstaff at Aintree are well on target with their preparations, despite the recent cold weather. Half of the 30 fences are now ready for this year's race on April 5.

John Parrett, the racecourse manager, said: "In the past we have had problems getting the materials through the snow, but this year we got all the birch and spruce to the course in plenty of time."

The spruce comes from the Forestry Commission in North Wales and the birch from Cumbria. We also get some birch and gorse locally at Lord Derby's Knowsley estate.

Booklet not part of benefit regulations

Regina v Department of Health and Social Security, Ex parte London Borough of Camden and Another

Before Mr Justice Macpherson (Judgment given February 26)

The requirement in section 33(3)(a) of the Supplementary Benefits Act 1976, as substituted by Schedule 2 to the Social Security Act 1980, that draft regulations be laid before Parliament was a mandatory requirement rather than a directory one.

In making the Supplementary Benefit (Requirements and Resources) Miscellaneous Provisions (No 2) Regulations 1985 (No 1833) that requirement was complied with even though the booklet *Supplementary Benefit: Maximum Income, Initial Periods and Board and Lodging Allowance* was not laid before Parliament, because that booklet was an external document and not part of the statutory instrument.

Mr Justice Macpherson so held in the Queen's Bench Division (District Registry) in Regina v London Borough of Camden and Miss Beverly Nelson for judicial review of the enactment of paragraph 5 of Schedule 1A and paragraph 21 of Schedule 2A to the Supplementary Benefit (Requirements and Resources) Regulations 1985 (No 1833) which came into force on November 25, 1985.

It was a separate publication expressly referred to and not incorporated within the regulations. The booklet was part of the regulations but not a document which had to be laid before Parliament.

The question then was whether there was any principle or authority which prevented such a reference to an external document. The Lordship's judgment was that the technique of reference to outside documents was well known in the circumstances there was no obligation to lay the booklet itself before Parliament.

The regulations were validly made. The booklet was not incorporated within the regulations and the maximum amounts of payments. The applications failed.

Jockey Club to rule on Arab racing

By Jenny MacArthur

Arab horse-racing in Britain has taken a significant step towards amateurisation, with the announcement yesterday that it is now under the jurisdiction of the Jockey Club.

The sport has been followed closely by the Jockey Club since it started in this country in 1978 and yesterday's decision underlines its growing popularity and the number of registered horses in the sport last year was 179 compared with 75 in 1983.

The Arab Horse Society will continue in the day-to-day running, but the rules have to be approved by the Jockey Club and the owners and riders will be subject to the Jockey Club's disciplinary measures (so far the Arab Horse Society have not needed to employ any such measures).

This year the Emirate of Dubai, have increased their support for Arab horse racing in Britain to £85,000. Most of this will go in prize money spread over the eight meetings (one more than last year). The first fixture at Kempton Park on September 13, which holds the 14th Dubai international race, the Dubai Stakes for pure-bred Arabs, will carry a first prize of £8,500.

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CATTERICK BRIDGE

GOING 3.00pm (Inspection)

- 2.15 HORNY NOVICE HURDLE (Div 1) £685-2m (20 runners)
15 30010 BULLDOG (Mr J Park) Denny Smith 6-11-11 Mr M Thompson 4
16 022-011 LUTWORN (D) (A Dobby) A C Barry 6-11-11 Mr M Thompson 4
17 001 AVANTAGE (P) (Wade) J Wade 6-11-13 Mr J Wade
18 001 BOREALIS (P) (Dobby) J W Frickers 5-11-3 Mr J Wade
19 001 CIDER SPY (Miss G Jennings) Miss G Jennings 6-11-3 R Lamb
20 001-002 CROCODON'S COURSE (Mr J) (W Soden) Miss S Soden 6-11-3 R Lamb
21 001-003 DANCE ON WATER (W A Stephenson) W A Stephenson 6-11-3 R Lamb
22 001-004 GAN ON LAND (R Gray) R Gray 5-11-3 S Cherton
23 001 LE PAT COUQUERON (R) (W Soden) 5-11-3 Mr S Whitton 7
24 001-005 OWEN HERBERT (M O'Grady) B E Wilson 6-11-3 G Harter 4
25 001-006 PRINCE OBERON (J) (Peden) J Allen 5-11-3 Mr S Whitton 7
26 001-007 TRIPLE (D) (C Dobby) C Dobby 6-11-3 R Lamb
27 001-008 CAPRICORN SAINT (G) (Eubank) G Eubank 6-11-12 J J Doyle
28 001-009 AGUADA BEACH (R) (Hastory) H Hastory 4-10-9 J J Doyle
29 001-010 AL-AL-AD (D) (Dobby) D Dobby 6-11-3 J J Doyle
30 001-011 HORNBY NOVICE (A) (Farron) Eng Co Ltd R O Woodhouse 4-10-9 A Strange
31 001-012 STARS DELIGHT (C) (R Gray) W Soden 4-10-9 O Toller 7
32 001-013 TRILBY (A) (Crown) A Scott 4-10-4 G Harter 4
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Please contact Alison McEneaney, Jonathan Wren International Ltd, Bilingual Secretarial Division, 170 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 4LX Tel: 01-823 1266.

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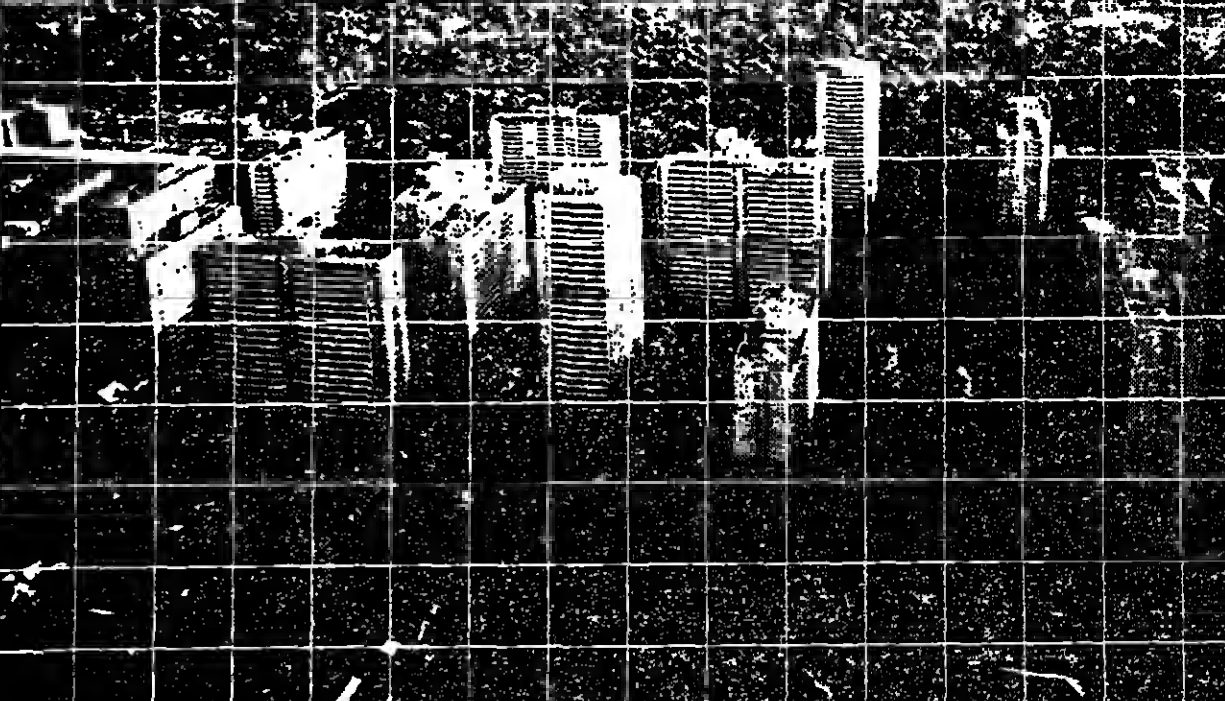
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Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

BBC

- 6.30 **Ceefax AM.**
- 6.50 **Breakfast Time** with Frank Goodwin and Debbie Greenwood. Weather at 6.55, 7.25, 7.55, 8.25 and 8.55. Regional news, weather and traffic at 6.57, 7.27, 7.57 and 8.27. National and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00. Sport at 7.54 and 8.24. Pop video at 7.54. Video review at 8.34; a behind the scenes look at the filming of Brookside at 8.45; a discussion on the need to reduce additives in all manufactured food at 8.49.
- 9.20 **10.50** **Gharial** - a week's edition of the magazine programme for Asian women includes a discussion on a new type of marriage guidance service. Birmingham-based Asian Family Conciliation Service. 11.15 **Ceefax.**
- 12.30 **News After Noon** with Richard Whitmore and Frances Cowley. Includes news headlines with subtitles 12.55. Regional news and weather.
- 1.00 **Presable Hill at One** presented by Bob Langley, Paul Coia and Marian Foster. The programme includes an up-date of the Richard Burton Drama Award with contributions from the actor's widow, Sally, and his last co-star, John Hart, both of whom are on the judges' panel. Music is provided by herpist Sinead Williams who performed at Burton's memorial service 1.45. **Regional News.** **Ceefax 3.52** Regional news.
- 3.55 **The ChuddeHounds** featuring the Chudde Brothers. **4.15** **The Cat** (r) 4.15. Jackyanna. Joanna Morro with part three of Eric Sijthoff's **The Circus of Adventure**. **4.30** **Handy, Cartoon version** (r) 4.30. **You Should Be So Lucky** Hear three of the talent competition between stage schools around the country. **5.00** **Newsround**, with Roger Finn. **5.05** **Who Cares?** A play about a sister who becomes jealous of the attention received by her teenage brother even though she knows that he is undergoing a serious heart operation (r). **5.35** **First Class.** The final of the video for schools. **Herford School, Gt. Heath, meet Paisley Grammar School.**
- 6.00 **News with Sue Lawley and Nicholas Witchell.** Weather. **6.35** **London Plus.**
- 7.00 **Wogan.** Tonight's guests include Lord Len Murray, Professor Laurie Taylor and, via satellite, Linda March. **7.30** **Daffes.** A special feature length episode heralding a new series of the soap. **The Ewing clan** are trying to come to terms with the tragic loss of Bobby, mown down by a motorcar driven by Pam's jealous half-sister, Katherine. **7.55** **News with Sue Lawley and Nicholas Witchell.** **8.00** **Wogan.** **8.15** **Cartoon version** (r) 8.15. **Handy, Cartoon version** (r) 8.15. **8.30** **News with Sue Lawley and Nicholas Witchell.** **8.45** **Cartoon version** (r) 8.45. **8.55** **Cartoon version** (r) 8.55. **9.00** **Cartoon version** (r) 9.00. **9.15** **Cartoon version** (r) 9.15. **9.30** **Cartoon version** (r) 9.30. **9.45** **Cartoon version** (r) 9.45. **10.00** **Cartoon version** (r) 10.00. **10.15** **Cartoon version** (r) 10.15. **10.30** **Cartoon version** (r) 10.30. **10.45** **Cartoon version** (r) 10.45. **11.00** **Cartoon version** (r) 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